

February 2017



Farm Service Agency

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NEWSLETTER



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Delaware State FSA February Newsletter

Delaware State Farm Service Agency **NAP Coverage Application Closing Dates**

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State Executive Director:

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including Federal Crop Insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of **March 15th**.

Federal Crop Insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent Federal Crop Insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fees annually by the application closing date. Acreage and production reports are also due annually.

The following crops have a NAP application deadline of **March 15th**:

Robert Walls melons, fresh market sweet corn, squash, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, most annual fruits and vegetables

DE State

Executive Committee: USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine

Dale Scuse whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their

Robert Baker operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the

(Open) average market price available, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage.

Please contact your local [FSA Office](#) for questions specific to your

operation or county. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>.

Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

2017 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

November 15 - perennial forage/grasses, alfalfa

December 15 - wheat, barley and other fall-planted small grains

May 15 - green peas, potatoes

May 31 - nursery crops

July 15 - soybeans, corn, sweet corn, lima beans, watermelons, cucumbers planted 4/10 - 6/25, CRP, cover crops, all other crops

August 15 - green beans, cucumbers planted 6/26 - 8/10 in Kent and Sussex

September 30 - spinach

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then

the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, Adjusted Gross Income Certification.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 certifying their compliance with the average adjusted gross income provisions will not receive payments that have been processed. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015, 2016 and 2017. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size farm.

You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2017

- Farm Operating Loans — Direct - 2.875%
- Farm Ownership Loans — Direct - 4.00%
- Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer and Rancher - 1.50%
- Emergency Loans - 3.875%

- Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 yr. term) - 2.25%
- Commodity Loans - 1.875%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).