

July 2016



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### Alaska State Farm Service Agency

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#### Northern County Office

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#### County Executive Director/Farm Loan Officer

Lloyd Wilhelm  
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Fax: 855-711-9095

### Alaska FSA State Director News - Job Opening at Northern Service Center in Delta Junction Alaska

Alaska State Farm Service Agency is currently advertising for a permanent full-time Loan Assistant/Specialist (Agricultural) vacancy located in the Northern Service Center in Delta Junction, Alaska. The vacancy is being advertised under Job Announcements FSA-16-0979-AK-LF, FSA-16-0980-AK-LF, FSA-16-0982-AK-LF, FSA-16-0983-AK-LF and FSA-16-0984-AK-LF. Applicants wishing to be considered for all announcements must submit separate and complete application packages for each vacancy announcement. The closing date is July 20, 2016. Please go to the Federal Government's Official Job site USAjobs to view these vacancy announcements <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

We are looking for applicants with a passion for helping Alaska farmers succeed, and an interest in working with a great team of USDA professionals. For more information on Alaska Farm Service Agency, please see our website [www.fsa.usda.gov/ak](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ak)

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**County Executive Director**  
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Hours Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings:  
Northern Co TBA  
Southern Co August 9, 4:00 p.m.

Please contact your local FSA  
Office for questions specific to  
your operation or county.

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## Annual Acreage Report to Meet Farm Program Requirements

Please be reminded that you need to submit your annual acreage report to the County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office to meet FSA program eligibility requirements by July 15, 2016. Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs including:

- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)
- Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Farm Storage Facility Program (FSFL)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program for Honeybees, Livestock, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Marketing Loans
- Loan Deficiency Payments

If you miss the July 15, 2016, acreage reporting deadline, late-filed acreage report fees will be charged.

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## 2016 Acreage Reporting Dates

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

The following 2016 acreage reporting dates are applicable for Alaska:

September 30, 2015: NAP Value Loss Crops (including floriculture)

December 15, 2015: Perennial Forage (including forage intended for seed), Fall small grains

July 15, 2016: All other crops, CRP

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above 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 above 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 dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Northern County FSA office at 907-895-4242 ext 150 or the Southern County FSA office at 907-761-7754.

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## **USDA Program Helps Offset Transportation Costs for Farmers and Ranchers in Alaska**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that beginning July 18, farmers and ranchers residing outside the contiguous continental United States can enroll in the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for fiscal year 2016. Applicants must submit their application to their administrative county FSA office by Sept. 9, 2016. Applicants will have until Nov. 4, 2016, to provide supporting documentation.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the program, which offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural products over long distances. The program allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau and the Virgin Islands of the United States to recover transportation costs.

Payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per federal fiscal year.

For more information on RTCP, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their FSA county office or the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport) or [www.fsa.usda.gov/ak](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ak)

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## **Enrollment Period for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Ends Aug. 1**

Producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

Although the choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## **FSA County Committee Nomination Period in the Northern and Southern County Offices Now Open**

The nomination period for the Northern and Southern FSA county committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Northern and Southern County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in the following LAAs:

### **Northern County LAA-1**

LAA-1 Includes the area that encompasses the following areas: North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Yukon-Koyukuk and Nome Census areas, as well as the Denali and Fairbanks North Star Borough.

### **Southern County LAA -2**

LAA-2 Includes the municipality of Anchorage, Valdez/Cordova Census area south of Chugach Mtns. Kenai Peninsula Borough north of Kasilof River.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the Northern and Southern County Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Northern County FSA office at 907-895-4242 and the Southern County FSA office at 907-761-7754 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## **USDA Offers New Loans for Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment**

*Portable Equipment Can Help Producers, including Small-Scale and Local Farmers, Get Products to Market Quickly*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

Earlier this year, FSA significantly expanded the list of commodities eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan. Eligible commodities now include aquaculture; floriculture; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables; corn, grain sorghum, rice, oilseeds, oats, wheat, triticale, spelt, buckwheat, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas sugar, peanuts, barley, rye, hay, honey, hops, maple sap, unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and renewable biomass. FSFL microloans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport) or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Borrower Training

Borrower training is available for all Farm Service Agency customers. This training is required for all direct loan applicants, unless the applicant has a waiver issued by the agency.

Borrower training includes instruction in production and financial management. The purpose is to help the applicant develop and improve skills that are necessary to successfully operate a farm and build equity in the operation. It aims to help the producer become financially successful. Borrower training is provided, for a fee, by agency approved vendors. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager for a list of approved vendors.

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## Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

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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).

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