



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

[[VIEW_THIS]]

REQUIRED: Insert Table of Contents Here

- [Message from the State Executive Director](#)
- [Application for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\) Payment](#)
- [Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules](#)
- [Reporting Wind Turbines Constructed on Cropland](#)
- [CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs](#)
- [Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\) Losses](#)
- [Borrower Training](#)
- [Youth Loans](#)
- [Changing Bank Accounts](#)
- [Power of Attorney](#)
- [Signature Policy](#)
- [Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain](#)
- [Marketing Assistance Available for 2017 Crops](#)
- [Unauthorized Disposition of Grain](#)
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
- [May Interest Rates and Important Dates to Remember](#)

Illinois FSA Newsletter

May 2018

Illinois Farm Service Agency

3500 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62711-8287

Phone: 217-241-6600 ext. 2
Fax: 855-800-1760

www.fsa.usda.gov/il

Message from the State Executive Director

Illinois Farmers once again have put in a crop in record time. I know there are a few fields still left to be planted and wheat to harvest. Soybeans will then need to be planted, but for the most part planting is done. Now the paperwork part. Get into your county office and get your acres reported and certified.

State Executive Director:
William J. Graff

If you have not signed your ARC/PLC contracts yet and plan to sign up for the program, get that done.

State Committee:
James Reed-Chairperson
Melanie DeSutter-Member
Troy Uphoff-Member

Your county office may need you to come back and finish that after acreage reporting. Certification deadline happens before the ARC/PLC deadline.

Executive Officer:
Rick Graden
Administrative Officer:
Dan Puccetti

I know that it is bright and sunny outside and the last thing most farmers want to do is more paperwork. Do Illinois FSA employees a favor and do not wait until the deadline. We will take about 191,000 acreage certifications in about a 6 to 8 week period this year. Lots of paper, lots of data, and we need that to accurate. The earlier the better so we are not rushed to get it done the day before the deadline.

Division Chiefs:
Doug Bailey
John Gehrke
Randy Tillman

Now about those sunny days. Hopefully you get some rain also.

William Graff

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/il

Main column

Sidebar

Application for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Payment

Producers must file an application for payment on form CCC-576 "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment", Parts D, E, F, and G, as applicable, to apply for payments **within 60 days** of the last day of coverage for the crop year for any NAP covered crop in the unit. For annual crops, the coverage period ends the earlier of the:

- Date the crop harvest is complete
- Normal harvest date for the crop
- Date the crop is abandoned, or
- Date the crop acreage is destroyed.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction.

Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Fruits, vegetables and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Reporting Wind Turbines Constructed on Cropland

Producers who have wind turbines constructed on their farms should notify the local Farm Service Agency office. Any area that is no longer considered suitable as cropland (producing annual or perennial crops) should be designated in FSA's records and aerial photography maps. When base acres on a farm are converted to a non-agricultural commercial or industrial use, the total base acres on the farm must be reduced accordingly. Non-cropland areas used for wind turbines might impact payments calculated using base acres, such as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments.

CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are responsible for ensuring adequate, approved vegetative and practice cover is maintained to control erosion throughout the life of the contract after the practice has been established. Participants must also control undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious weeds), insects and rodents that may pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

All CRP maintenance activities, such as mowing, burning, disking and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting or brood rearing season for wildlife, which for Illinois is April 15 through August 1. However, spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting or brood rearing season if, left untreated, the weeds, insects or undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover. In this instance, spot treatment is limited to the affected areas in the field and requires County Committee approval prior to beginning the spot treatment. The County Committee will consult with NRCS to determine if such activities are needed to maintain the approved cover.

Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control, or for cosmetic purposes, is prohibited at all times.

Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date. Producers of hand harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when the crop loss becomes apparent.

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 the Farm Loan Manager in your local County FSA Office for a list of approved vendors.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Changing Bank Accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact your local County FSA office near you for more information. Power of Attorney provisions do not apply to farm loan programs.

Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent

Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.

When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.

FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents not approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Any member of the general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive.

Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local County FSA office.

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Marketing Assistance Available for 2017 Crops

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's).

May 31, 2018 – Final date to request 2017 MAL's

MAL's provide financing and marketing assistance for 2017 crop feed grains, soybeans and other oilseeds, and pulse crops. MAL's provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

To be eligible for an MAL, producers must have a beneficial interest in the commodity, in addition to other requirements. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$100,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

May Interest Rates and Important Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for May 2018		Dates to Remember	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.625%	April 15-August 1	Primary Nesting Period for enrolled CRP acres
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.125%	May 28	Memorial Day Holiday – FSA Offices Closed
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%	May 31	Final date to request 2017 MAL's
Emergency Loans	3.750%	June 1	Margin Protection Program (MPP) Deadline
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	2.500%	June 15	Begin accepting COC nominations
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.625%	July 15	Crop acreage reporting ends
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.750%	continuous	2018 ARC/PLC Farm Program enrollment
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.875%	Continuous	Sign-up for FSA text messages from your local county office
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.875%	continuous	Update Your Farm Records
Commodity Loans	3.125%	Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan applications

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).