

April 2016



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Louisiana FSA Newsletter

Louisiana Farm Service Agency

3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

www.fsa.usda.gov/la

State Executive Director:
Craig A. McCain

Next State Committee Meeting:
To be determined

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

Message from Craig A. McCain, FSA State Executive Director

As difficult as it is to continue our focus on this issue, the recent flooding and wet field conditions experienced across the State have severely impacted many aspects of agriculture. Some sources are estimating that upwards to 40,000 acres of corn have been damaged or destroyed by flood waters. Planting on untold acres has been delayed and to make matters worse, many producers are making very difficult decisions concerning continuing with their initial planting intentions or changing crops. Soil prep, pre-plant applications of fertilize and/or herbicides, seed availability and crop prices, along with potential timeframes of planting and the uncertainty of future weather, make these decisions even more challenging. In addition to crop damage or delay, many livestock producers across the State have reported loss of animals or feed during flash floods or prolonged flood events. Whatever the situation, I can attest that numerous elected officials, representatives of Southern and LSU Ag Centers, State and Federal agencies and producer groups

are working to assist our citizen farmers and ranchers who have been impacted. The Farm Service Agency is ready and willing to assist in communities across the State. While we pray and hope for favorable weather and better crop prices, we will continue to use the tools available to serve you.

If you have questions concerning potential disaster assistance or feel that you have a loss, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible to report the loss and discuss possible assistance. To locate your local FSA office, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/la.

On a much happier note, we would like to congratulate Mr. Willie Cooper on his induction into The Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction on March 17, 2016. The Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction honors those who have made significant contributions to the most important industry in Louisiana – Agriculture! Mr. Cooper was recognized for his notable contributions to the agri-business community and his unprecedented 42 years of service as the FSA State Executive Director for Louisiana.

2016 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.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

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.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack established the first ever USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs in February 2014 at seven locations around the country to provide more information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on the increasing risks of fires, pests, floods, and droughts associated with a changing climate. For general information on Climate Hubs, visit <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA%20Regional%20Hubs%20for%20Risk%20Adaptation%20and%20Mitigation%20to%20Climate%20Change%202015.pdf> For information on the Climate Hub in your Region, visit <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov> and Click on the region to learn more.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Online Hay and Grazing Acres Locator Tool

FSA's **Hay Net** website www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet is the "go to" online resource for agricultural producers to list information concerning the need for hay and grazing acres or the availability of hay and grazing acres.

If, due to extenuating circumstances, producers are in need of hay and/or grazing acres to support livestock, please use **Hay Net** to post an advertisement seeking these resources. Likewise, landowners who have hay and/or grazing acres available for livestock producers should post a Hay Net advertisement as well.

A few things to remember when using the **Hay Net** website:

- There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users who just want to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.
- Hay and grazing acre ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date and remove ads you no longer need or want advertised on **Hay Net**. Please, no corporate advertisements on this site.

Hay Net is brought to you by FSA as a public service. The sole purpose of this online resource is to provide a site for the exchange of information. FSA does not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise make representations of any kind regarding any user of this site and FSA is not responsible for defining the terms of grazing agreements or lease contracts.

For more information about **Hay Net** and other FSA services and programs, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: offices.usda.gov.

Changing Administrative Counties

Producers who wish to transfer their farm records to a different administrative county for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 must file a request no later than August 1, 2016. Restrictions do apply when transferring to an office other than the county in which the land is physically located. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

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.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Attention Apple Users

If you are an Apple user who receives online communications through GovDelivery from your state or local FSA office using the mail app on your iPhone or iPad, you may have noticed a problem with hyperlinks in the table of contents. The GovDelivery vendor is working to resolve the issue. In the meantime, you can use the macro to view the newsletter or bulletin as a web page and will be able to use the hyperlinked table of contents. To open the macro, look for the statement below in the bulletin or newsletter and click "View it as a Web page."

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

There are no reported problems from android mobile device users at this time.

AskFSA

Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ASK FSA at askfsa.custhelp.com.

AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your FSA questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is for ALL customers, including underserved farmers and ranchers who wish to be enrolled in FSA loans, farm, and conservation programs.

Through AskFSA you can:

- Access our knowledge base 24/7
- Receive answers to your questions faster
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from an FSA expert

- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operation are updated
- Customize your account settings and view responses at any time

Selected Interest Rates for April 2016

- 90-Day Treasury Bill — .250%
- Farm Operating Loans — Direct 2.25%
- Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.50%
- Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
- Emergency Loans — 3.25%
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) — 1.625%
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years) — 1.875%
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years) — 2.00%
- Sugar Storage Facility Loans (15 year term) — 2.125%
- Commodity Loans — 1.625%

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).