

April 2017



Farm Service Agency

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## Montana FSA: April 2017 eNewsletter

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### It's that time for 2017 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification

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

The 2017 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification Deadline is **July 17, 2017** for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Fruit (except cherries), Vegetables, Christmas Trees, and all Spring-Seeded Crops and any other crops not required to be reported by previously announced 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.

## Reasonable

### Accommodations:

People with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs and/or events should contact the County Executive Director in the FSA Office in your area or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Alternatively, you may contact Montana FSA Civil Rights Coordinator Jennifer Cole at (406) 654.1333, ext. 117 or [jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov).

- 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.

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## Final Acreage Reporting Deadline Established

**IMPORTANT!** A “final” acreage reporting deadline has been established. Acreage reports filed after the crop’s ARD must be submitted BEFORE the subsequent year’s ARD for the crop. If crops are not reported by the subsequent year’s ARD for the crop, FSA cannot accept the report and producers will be ineligible for program benefits that require an acreage report for the applicable crops that are reported after the “final” deadline. For example; the 2017 ARD for perennial forage was November 15, 2016. If perennial crops were not reported by November 15, 2016, the crops **MUST** be reported no later than **November 15, 2017** to be considered as acceptable. If the perennial forage is reported after the final deadline of November 15, 2017, FSA cannot accept the report and producers will not be eligible for program benefits pertaining to the perennial forage from programs such as NAP, LFP, and ELAP.

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## Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) for Shared Crops

Producers requesting Loan Deficiency Payments must submit page 1 of the CCC-633EZ (LDP Agreement) form before loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. Pages 2, 3, and 4 (Request for Payment) must be received before the final loan/LDP availability date.

LDP requests submitted using production evidence for shared crops must show the share of the lessee and the applicable share of the landowner. If the production evidence does not show the shares for the delivered commodity, the LDP request will be denied and the requested bushels will no longer be eligible for a Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) or LDP.

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## Upcoming Farm Service Agency Dates and Deadlines

- **May 14:** 2017 CRP Spring Grazing Period Ends
- **May 15 to July 15:** Montana Primary Nesting Season
- **May 31:** Final availability date for Loans and LDPs for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower Seed
- **June 15:** 2017 FSA County Committee Election Nomination Period Begins
- **July 15:** Last day of Montana Primary Nesting Season
- **July 16:** 2017 CRP Summer/Fall Grazing Period Begins (with prior written approval)
- **July 16:** 2017 CRP Managed Harvesting Period Begins (with prior written approval)
- **July 17:** 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Fruit (except cherries), Vegetables, Christmas Trees, all Spring-Seeded Crops and all other crops not required to be reported by previously announced deadlines
- **July 17:** 2016 NAP Production Reporting Deadline for certain NAP crops

- **July 17:** Deadline to submit 2016 Certified Yields for ARC-IC
- **Aug. 1:** Deadline for 2017 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Enrollment
- **Aug. 1:** 2017 FSA County Committee Election Nomination Period Deadline
- **Aug. 1:** Last day to request FY 2017 farm reconstitutions on ARC & PLC farms
- **Aug. 1:** Last day to request farm transfers for FY 2017
- **Sept. 1:** 2018 NAP Application Closing Date Value-Loss Crops such as nursery, Christmas trees, grass sod, ginseng, aquaculture, floriculture, root stock sets and mushrooms.
- **Sept. 13:** 2017 CRP Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends
- **Sept. 30:** 2017 CRP Managed Harvesting Period Ends
- **Oct. 2:** 2018 NAP Application Closing Date for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage and Grazing, Mixed Forage Crops including spring seeded annual types of mixed forage, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic
- **Nov. 15:** 2018 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including native grass, fall wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other fall-seeded small grains
- **Nov. 15:** Final 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including native grass, fall wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other fall-seeded small grains

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## Report Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to eligible adverse weather, disease or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Eligible adverse weather events include but are not limited to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, or extreme cold and straight-line wind.

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.00% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3.60%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

For 2017, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the eligible loss condition. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is first apparent. Participants must file an application for payment and provide all required supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred. Examples of some of the required documentation include;

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- Livestock beginning and ending inventory documentation

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt).

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## Ongoing FSA Notice of Loss Requirements

Montana farmers and ranchers are reminded to timely report all crop and livestock losses to your local FSA office. For any questions, please contact your local FSA office.

**NAP – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program:** Submit Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days of the **earlier** of a natural disaster occurrence, the final planting date if planting is prevented by a natural disaster, the date that damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent; or the normal harvest date.

**ELAP – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program:** Submit Notice of Loss the **earlier** of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or Nov. 1st after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred.

**LIP - Livestock Indemnity Program:** Submit Notice of Loss **within** 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. File an Application for payment and supporting documentation no later than 90 days after the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

**TAP - Tree Assistance Program:** Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation is the later of 90 calendar days of the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent

Visit FSA's national disaster assistance [website](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index) at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index> and [FSA's program factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/factsheets/index) page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/factsheets/index>.

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## 2017 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Enrollment Period Continues: Aug. 1 Deadline

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can begin visiting FSA county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment deadline is **Aug. 1, 2017**.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC 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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## Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger.

FSA administers four types of disaster designations:

### USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation

- The designation process can be initiated by individual farmers, local government officials, State governors, State agriculture commissions, tribal councils or the FSA State Executive Director
- This designation is triggered by a 30-percent or greater production loss to at least one crop because of a natural disaster, or at least 1 producer who sustained individual losses because of a natural disaster and is unable to obtain commercial financing to cover those losses
- In 2012, USDA developed a fast-track process for disaster declarations for severe drought. This provides for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2

(Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value for any length of time as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>).

### Administrator's Physical Loss Notification

- This designation is initiated by the FSA State Executive Director.
- The designation is triggered by physical damage and losses because of a natural disaster, including but not limited to dead livestock, collapsed buildings, and destroyed farm structures.

### Presidential Designation

- A Presidential major disaster designation and emergency declaration is initiated by the Governor of the impacted state through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- This designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State and local governments.

### Quarantine Designation

- This designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by the FSA State Executive Director.
- A quarantine designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by the effects of a plant or animal quarantine approved by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.

All four types of designations immediately trigger the availability of low-interest Emergency loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. FSA borrowers in these counties who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt may be authorized to have certain set asides. Additional disaster assistance requiring a designation may also be provided by new programs in the future.

**Montana Designations:** The map below lists current Disaster Designations in Montana by County. Eligible producers have **eight months** from the date of the disaster designation to apply for low-interest emergency loans. Contact your local FSA office for specific designations in your area and time frames to apply.

- [Current Disaster Designations in Montana](#) - (by county)
- [Emergency Loan Factsheet](#) (pdf)

For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

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## Montana USDA Directories & FSA Links

### Montana USDA Office Directories/Links:

[Online Directory of FSA Offices in Montana](#)  
[Printable Montana FSA Office Directory](#) (pdf)  
[Printable Montana USDA Office Directory](#) (pdf)  
[Online Directory of NRCS Offices in Montana](#)  
[Online Directory of RD Offices in Montana](#)  
[MSU Extension Farm Bill Page](#)

### FSA's Online Resource Links:

[FSA Program Factsheets Website](#)  
[FSA Disaster Programs](#)  
[FSA Farm Loan Programs](#)  
[FSA Conservation Programs](#)  
[FSA Price Support Programs](#)  
[FSA ARC-PLC Programs](#)  
[FSA Organic Certification Cost-Share Program](#)  
[FSA Energy Programs](#)

### FSA Policy Reminders:

[2017 Annual Notification](#) (pdf)

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