

November 2016



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## Montana FSA: November 2016 eNewsletter

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### USDA Farm Service Agency - Montana

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**Montana USDA Office Directories**

### Have you certified your crops? Fall Acreage Reporting Deadline is Nov. 15

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 acreage reporting deadlines listed below.

Producers with the following 2017 crops must report the crops no later than **Nov. 15, 2016** to avoid late-file fees: **Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including native grass, fall wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other fall-seeded small grains.** The aforementioned crops must be reported to FSA by Nov. 15, 2016 to be considered timely filed in order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements.

Please visit your local FSA office to file an accurate, timely crop certification report no later than Nov. 15.

The following are the 2017 crop year acreage reporting dates for Montana:

- **Nov. 15, 2016:** Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including Native grass, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains

[Online Directory of FSA Offices in Montana](#)

[PDF of Montana FSA Directory](#)

[PDF of Montana USDA Directory](#)

[FSA Factsheets Website](#)

### **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 also contact Montana FSA Civil Rights Coordinator Jennifer Cole at (406) 587-6786 or [jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov).

- **Jan. 2, 2017:** Honey covered under NAP (or 30 days after placement of colonies)
- **Jan. 15, 2017:** Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed and Cherries
- **July 15, 2017:** 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 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.

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## **USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017: Signup began Nov. 1 and ends on Aug. 1, 2017**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that 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 starting Nov. 1, 2016, to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until 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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## **Livestock producers in 14 Montana counties have until Jan. 30, 2017 to enroll in the 2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**

### **Eligible 2016 LFP counties include Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Fallon, Flathead, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Park, Powder River, Powell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Teton**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers in qualifying counties for drought on dryland pasture. Eligible livestock producers must own or lease dryland pasture physically located in a qualifying county and eligible livestock must use this ground during the normal grazing period for the county. The following 14 counties have met the qualifying drought criteria for 2016 in Montana: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Fallon, Flathead, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Park, Powder River, Powell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Teton.

Livestock eligible for LFP include alpacas, beef cattle over 500 lbs, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the county's grazing period.

Eligible land includes dryland native pasture, improved pasture, and small grains, annual ryegrass and forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing. Irrigated acres used for grazing or aftermath grazing are not eligible under this program.

If all eligibility requirements are met, livestock producers in Carter County will receive four monthly payments; livestock producers in the following 13 counties will receive one monthly payment: Big Horn, Carbon, Fallon, Flathead, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Park, Powder River, Powell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Teton.

Livestock producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office with any questions regarding eligibility.

Producers must complete an application and provide supporting documentation for 2016 losses by Jan. 30, 2017. Please contact the local FSA office ASAP to schedule an appointment to begin the application process and for questions on FSA programs. For more information, visit Montana FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) and [www.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.usda.gov/disaster).

[LFP Factsheet](#) (pdf)

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## **Farm Loan Program Availability**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agricultural production. As a farmer or rancher, whether you are just starting out or have many years of experience, loans are available for farm operating purposes and/or to purchase or improve a farm or ranch. As the "Lender of First Opportunity" FSA targets some of the direct and guaranteed loan funds for beginning and/or underserved farmers or ranchers. For purposes of this program, a beginning farmer/rancher is defined as someone who started in farming or ranching less than 10 years ago; underserved individuals 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. For more information, contact your local FSA office who can schedule an appointment with the Farm Loan Program (FLP) staff serving your area and/or visit the [National FLP Web site](#).

[FSA Factsheet: Farm Loan Program Overview](#) (pdf)

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## Emergency Loans – Disaster Designations in Montana

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available for agricultural producers in counties designated as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas. See map below of current Disaster Designations in Montana by County. Contact your local FSA office for specific designations in your area and time frames to apply. Eligible producers have **eight months** from the date of the disaster designation to apply for low-interest emergency loans to 1.) restore or replace essential property; 2.) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; 3.) pay essential family living expenses; or 4.) refinance certain debts, excluding real estate. Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan, or other FLP loans, should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving your area.

[Current Disaster Designations in Montana](#) - (by county)

[Emergency Loan Factsheet](#) (pdf)

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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 county 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.

**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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## Financing details can impact your program eligibility

Loans used to purchase or rent land or equipment, or to obtain operating capital, which are acquired from, cosigned by, or secured by, anyone else with an interest in your operation, or in whose operation you have an interest, can result in ineligibility for some FSA programs. An interest may be as a landowner, tenant, or any other affiliation which results in an interest in the land or crop involved in the operation. A variety of lending practices can result in more restrictive application of payment eligibility rules and can result in ineligibility. These practices include, but are not limited to, lenders using land, equipment, or crops that are owned by another party, such as a landowner or tenant, to secure your loan; the same assets being pledged to secure loans for multiple different operations; shared loans or lines of credit; personal guarantees made by a landowner or tenant; and other types of financing arrangements that would result in another party assuming part or all of the risk associated with the loan, or gaining a potential interest in your crop proceeds. Please ensure that questions relating to lending arrangements are currently fully and correctly answered on your CCC-902 farm operating plan if you are participating in programs requiring an "actively engaged in farming" determination, and promptly notify your recording county FSA office of changes to your lending arrangements which may impact your eligibility determination.

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## Upcoming FSA Dates and Deadlines

The following are upcoming FSA dates and deadlines. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

- **NOW!!:** File form CCC-633 EZ page 1 with FSA before losing beneficial interest to maintain Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) eligibility. (To request payments, producers need to submit page 2 of the CCC-633EZ.)
- **Nov. 1:** 2017 ARC-PLC Enrollment Period Began (and ends Aug. 1, 2017)
- **Nov. 7:** County Committee Election Ballots will be Mailed to Eligible Voters
- **Nov. 11:** USDA Service Centers Closed in observance of Veteran's Day Federal Holiday
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP
- **Nov. 15:** 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland & Forage (PRF) including Native Grass, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter – HRW), and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **Nov. 15:** Deadline for 2016 NAP Production Reports for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage, Mixed Forage Crops, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic
- **Nov. 24:** USDA Service Centers Closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday
- **Dec. 1:** 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Honey Producers
- **Dec. 5:** Last Day to Return Voted County Committee Election Ballots to local FSA offices
- **Dec. 16:** Final date to enroll in the 2017 Margin Protection Program Dairy (MPP-Dairy). The MPP Dairy Program 2017 Registration was extended to Dec. 16.
- **Dec. 26:** USDA Service Centers Closed in observance of Christmas Day Federal Holiday
- **Jan. 1:** Newly elected County Committee Members take office
- **Jan. 2:** 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Honey covered under NAP (or 30 days after placement of colonies)
- **Jan. 15:** 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed and Cherries
- **Jan. 30:** Deadline for 2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation
- **Jan. 30:** Deadline for 2016 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Application for Payment
- **Jan. 30:** Deadline for Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation for Loss for 2016 (or 90 days after disaster event or loss was apparent)
- **Feb. 1:** Final Availability Date for Loans and LDPs for Mohair, Unshorn Pelts (LDP only) & Wool
- **March 15:** 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Spring Crops (except spring seeded rye, speltz, triticale, wheat, and mixed forage)
- **March 31:** Final availability date for Loans and LDPs for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat and Sesame Seed
- **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

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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).