



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nebraska FSA and NRCS State Office Newsletter - September 2021

[Farm Service Agency](#) | [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) | [Risk Management Agency](#)

In This Issue:

- [A Message from the FSA Acting State Executive Director](#)
- [USDA Extends Deadline to Apply for Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers with Animal Losses](#)
- [Fall Acreage Reporting Deadline Set for Nov. 15](#)
- [USDA Expands Assistance to Cover Feed Transportation Costs for Drought-Impacted Ranchers](#)
- [USDA Expands Farmers.gov to Include Farm Records](#)
- [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation; FSA September Interest Rates](#)
- [FSA Offers Youth Opportunity to Access Loan for Ag Projects](#)
- [Deadline to Apply for Natural Resource Conservation Funds Set](#)
- [USDA Providing Funds to Protect and Restore Agricultural Land, Grassland and Wetlands Across Nebraska](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

A Message from the FSA Acting State Executive Director

It's been good to see so many combines out in the fields as harvest gets into full swing across the state. Please be safe as you work to bring your crops in over the next month.

Even as harvest starts, there also has been some planting going on. Our Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will be ready to take your acreage certification information as you finish getting your fall-seeded crops in the ground. You can start the process now by contacting your FSA office to schedule your certification appointment. Some already are in the process of sending out maps for you to complete as you plant. Please note you also can certify any newly-planted cover crop acres at this time.

I want to highlight the Dates to Remember article below as FSA has a number of upcoming application deadlines, including three pandemic-related assistance programs. This includes:

* Oct. 12 – [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#)

* Oct. 12 – [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program](#)

* Oct. 15 – [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers](#)

Click on the program links above to learn more about these programs and whether they may apply to you.

Regarding the CFAP 2 program, USDA announced some program updates recently, specific to livestock and poultry contract growers and sales-based commodities (which are primarily comprised of specialty crops, including, but not limited to, dry edible beans). You can [learn about these updates here](#), and then contact your county FSA office ahead of the Oct. 12 deadline if you have additional questions.

That's all for this month. Good luck with harvest and be safe.

--Tim Divis, acting State Executive Director

USDA Extends Deadline to Apply for Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers with Animal Losses

Producers Now Have Until Oct. 12 to Apply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional time for livestock and poultry producers to apply for the [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (PLIP). Producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing may now apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals through Oct. 12, 2021, rather than the original deadline of Sept. 17, 2021. PLIP is part of USDA's [Pandemic Assistance for Producers](#) initiative.

PLIP provides payments to producers for losses of livestock or poultry depopulated from March 1, 2020 through Dec. 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing access as a result of the pandemic. Payments are based on 80% of the fair market value of the livestock and poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animal. Eligible livestock and poultry include swine, chickens and turkeys.

PLIP Program Details

PLIP payments are calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible livestock or poultry by the payment rate per head, and then subtracting the amount of any payments the eligible livestock or poultry owner has received for disposal of the livestock or poultry under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or a state program. The payments will also be reduced by any Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 1 and 2) payments paid on the same inventory of swine that were depopulated.

Eligible livestock and poultry producers can apply for PLIP through the Oct. 12, 2021 deadline by completing the FSA-620, Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program application, and submitting it to any Farm Service Agency county office. Additional documentation may be required. Visit farmers.gov/plip more information on how to apply.

Additional Pandemic Assistance

Other programs within the Pandemic Assistance for Producer initiative with upcoming deadlines include:

- Oct. 12 - [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#), which provides critical support to agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions.
- Oct. 15 – [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers](#), which provides financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19.

To learn more about USDA's commitment to delivery of financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers and businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions, visit farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance.

Fall Acreage Reporting Deadline Set for Nov. 15

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of USDA program benefits.

How to File a Report

The fall acreage reporting deadline in Nebraska is Nov. 15 for fall-seeded crops such as winter wheat. To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the 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 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.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

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.

More Information

For questions, or to schedule an acreage reporting appointment, please contact your county FSA office.

USDA Expands Assistance to Cover Feed Transportation Costs for Drought-Impacted Ranchers

In response to the severe drought conditions in the West and Great Plains, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced plans to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. USDA is updating the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#) to immediately cover feed transportation costs for drought impacted ranchers.

More details regarding what is needed to apply for this new assistance will be available at fsa.usda.gov/elap.

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. ELAP already covers the cost of hauling water during drought, and this change will expand the program beginning in 2021 to cover feed transportation costs where grazing and hay resources have been depleted. This includes places where:

- Drought intensity is D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the U.S. [Drought Monitor](#);
- Drought intensity is D3 or greater; or
- USDA has determined a shortage of local or regional feed availability.

Cost share assistance will also be made available to cover eligible cost of treating hay or feed to prevent the spread of invasive pests like fire ants.

Under the revised policy for feed transportation cost assistance, eligible ranchers will be reimbursed 60% of feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited

resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

A national cost formula, as established by USDA, will be used to determine reimbursement costs which will not include the first 25 miles and distances exceeding 1,000 transportation miles. The calculation will also exclude the normal cost to transport hay or feed if the producer normally purchases some feed. For 2021, the initial cost formula of \$6.60 per mile will be used (before the percentage is applied), but may be adjusted on a state or regional basis.

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. Although producers will self-certify losses and expenses to FSA, producers are encouraged to maintain good records and retain receipts and related documentation in the event these documents are requested for review by the local FSA County Committee. The deadline to file an application for payment for the 2021 program year is Jan. 31, 2022.

USDA offers a comprehensive portfolio of disaster assistance programs. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help producers and landowners determine all program or loan options available for disaster recovery assistance.

More information on this expansion to ELAP is forthcoming. In the meantime, more information is available at fsa.usda.gov/elap or by contacting a [local USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Expands Farmers.gov to Include Farm Records

Producers with farmers.gov accounts can now access farm records and maps online, the latest self-service feature added to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) website.

You can quickly and easily access your land information in real time by desktop computer, tablet or phone. Capabilities include:

- View, print and export detailed farm records such as cropland, base acres, yields, CRP acres, land ownership details, and much more;
- View, print and export farm/tract maps that can be provided to lenders, chemical or fertilizer providers, and FSA for reporting acreage and crop insurance agents; and
- Export common land unit (field) boundaries as ESRI shapefiles.

The ability to access these records on demand without a visit to the service center saves you time and money.

[Farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) now includes the most popular functionalities from FSAFarm+, the FSA portal for producers, while providing enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. A new enhancement expands the scope of accessibility to include farmers

and ranchers who are members of an entity, as well as people with a power of attorney form (FSA-211) on file with FSA.

Managing USDA Business Online

Using farmers.gov, producers, entities and those acting on their behalf can also:

- View, upload, download, and e-sign conservation documents.
- Request financial assistance, including submitting a program application.
- View and submit conservation requests.
- View technical references and submit questions.
- Access information on current and past conservation practices, plans and contracts.
- Report practice completion and request practice certification.
- View farm loan and interest information (producers only).

Future plans include adding the ability to import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture planting boundaries.

To access your information, you'll will need a [USDA eAuth account](#) to login to farmers.gov. After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit [farmers.gov](#) and sign into the site's authenticated portal via the [Sign In/Sign Up link](#) at the top right of the website. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge are the recommended browsers to access the feature.

In addition to the self-service features available by logging into farmers.gov, the website also has ample information on USDA programs, including pandemic assistance, farm loans, disaster assistance, conservation programs and crop insurance. Recently, USDA updated the navigation and organization of the site as well as added some new webpages, including "[Get Involved](#)," "[Common Forms](#)," and "[Translations](#)." [Learn more about these changes](#).

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation; FSA September Interest Rates

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans

that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. USDA has also launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

For more information, contact your county USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov.

FSA Farm Loan Interest Rates for September

OPERATING/OWNERSHIP

Farm Operating: 1.875%
Microloan Operating: 1.875%
Farm Ownership: 3%
Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.5%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.5%
Emergency - Actual Loss: 2.875%

FARM STORAGE

Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 year term: 0.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 year term: 0.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 1%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 1.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 1.375%

MARKETING ASSISTANCE

Commodity Loan: 1.125%

FSA Offers Youth Opportunity to Access Loan for Ag Projects

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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 \$5,000.

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.

For help preparing the application forms, contact the farm loan staff at your county USDA Service Center. You also can learn more through this [video link](#).

Deadline to Apply for Natural Resource Conservation Funds Set

Farmers and ranchers have until Nov. 19, 2021, to sign up for funding

Farmers and ranchers interested in preventing erosion, improving soil health, conserving water and wildlife, or making any other natural resource conservation improvements to their property are encouraged to apply for funding available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Those interested in receiving funding should sign up by Nov. 19, 2021.

Using EQIP assistance, farmers can adopt structural and management practices that help treat a natural resource concern, such as soil erosion or water quality, on working agricultural lands. Many of the available practices also provide supplemental benefits such as improved soil health, wildlife habitat, and energy conservation.

Along with traditional conservation practices such as terraces, grassed waterways, and buffer strips, farmers can use EQIP to help implement practices that improve manure, nutrient, and pasture management. Farmers may also adopt popular management practices like no-till and cover crops through EQIP.

EQIP can also be helpful for transitioning to organic production, developing a rotational grazing system, adding pollinator habitat to a farm, building a high tunnel system for fruit and vegetable production, or installing more efficient irrigation systems.

Individuals interested in applying for conservation funds may do so at any time, but applications need to be submitted by Nov. 19 to be considered for this year's funding.

For more information about conservation programs and other assistance available, call [your local NRCS field office](#) or visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA Providing Funds to Protect and Restore Agricultural Land, Grassland and Wetlands Across Nebraska

Applications due Oct. 15, 2021, at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Offices

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). This voluntary program provides funding for the purchase of conservation easements to help productive farm and ranch land remain in agriculture and to restore and protect critical grassland and wetlands.

The main goal of ACEP is to prevent productive agriculture land from being converted to non-agricultural uses and to restore and protect wetlands and wildlife habitat. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forestland are eligible. The program helps farmers keep their land in agriculture. Agricultural land easements also protect high quality grasslands under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other non-grazing uses.

Applications can be submitted at any time, but to be considered for fiscal year 2022 funding applications in Nebraska must be received by Oct. 15, 2021. Applications are currently being accepted for both agricultural land and wetland reserve easements.

For more information about the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services it provides, call your [local USDA Service Center](#) or visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember

September 30, 2021 – ***FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing deadline for coverage for rye, triticale, wheat in the 2022 production season

September 30, 2021 – Deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program participants to turn in activity information, documentation to NRCS

October 11, 2021 – USDA Service Centers closed for federal holiday

October 12, 2021 – FSA deadline to submit applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2)

October 12, 2021 – FSA deadline to submit applications for the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program

October 15, 2021 – NRCS deadline for applications to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

October 15, 2021 - FSA deadline to submit applications for the Pandemic Assistance to Timber Harvesters and Haulers

November 1, 2021 – FSA deadline for applications to the Organic Certification Cost Share Program

November 1, 2021 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters for the FSA County Committee

election

November 15, 2021 – FSA acreage reporting deadline for fall-seeded crops for 2022 program eligibility

November 15, 2021 – ***FSA NAP application closing deadline for coverage for alfalfa, mixed forages and grass in the 2022 production season

November 19, 2021 - NRCS deadline to apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

****Please note the above NAP calendar references may not be inclusive for all NAP-covered crops; NAP participants should contact their County FSA Office to confirm important program deadlines.*



Nebraska FSA and NRCS State Office Information

Farm Service Agency

7131 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: (402) 437-5581
Fax: (844) 930-0237

Tim Divis, FSA

Acting State Executive Director
timothy.divis@usda.gov

FSA State Office Programs Chiefs

Cathy Anderson, *Production & Compliance*
Doug Klein, *Conservation & Price Support*
Mark Wilke, *Farm Loans*
Patty Wilke, *Administrative Officer*

Natural Resources Conservation Service

100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 152
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 437-5300

John Wilson, NRCS

Acting State Conservationist
john.wilson@usda.gov

FSA State Committee

Tim Divis, *Acting Committee*