

October 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Washington State FSA Newsletter

Washington State Farm Service Agency

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To find contact information for

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Deadline Nears

November 1 is the final date this fiscal year to file a notice of loss and apply for assistance under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased

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above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by **November 1, 2017**.
- An application for payment by **November 1, 2017**.

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year. For more information or to make an appointment, contact your [county FSA office](#).

Marketing Assistance Loan Reminders

Grain producers who have obtained marketing assistance loans are reminded to maintain the quality of the grain and to contact FSA prior to disposing the 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. If you take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral, remember you are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

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 feed, sell, move or haul any grain under loan.

For more information, contact your [county FSA office](#).

Preparation Speeds Up the Loan Application Process

A little preparation prior to applying for financing can speed up the process of closing on a farm loan and help you achieve your goals more quickly. To make a decision, lenders rely on documents that give them a picture of your goals and your financial ability to repay the loan. A Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan begins with an application. Our professional farm loan staff will look at your farming operation and work with you to get a clear picture of your financial position. We offer different types of loans, however we begin the process with a basic application package and then may ask for other information that is specific to your loan type request.

Including the basic information required for an application, we may also ask for the following:

- Your business plan
- Your actual profit and loss records for the last 3 years-including 3 years of tax records
- Your actual production records for the last 3 years-This could include your APH from your crop insurance agent, your production records from the warehouse, your bill of sales from livestock sales etc.
- A projected income and expense for the next year
- A current bank statement and your monthly bank statements for the previous year
- The last 2 pay stubs if you or your spouse works off the farm and this income is included in your next year projection
- Copies of your driver's licenses
- A copy of your brand certificate if applicable
- Copies of any leases

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process of a loan application.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Pause in CRP Signups Continues

Earlier this year, FSA paused CRP signup as a result of the national acreage nearing the acreage cap set by the 2014 Farm Bill. The pause in enrollment applies to regular Continuous CRP, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) contracts. It does not apply to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

FSA will accept Continuous CRP, HELI and SAFE offers but these offers will be on hold until we are authorized to start processing them again. Offers accepted after May 3 are also still on hold.

CREP offers will continue to be accepted regardless of the date received or the proposed start date.

For more information, contact your [county FSA office](#).

Check Crop Risk Protection before Fall Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the fall-seeded crop application deadline of **November 20, 2017**.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters to crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. The following crops in Washington have a NAP application deadline of November 20, 2017:

- All perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category (see www.fsa.usda.gov/wa for complete list)
- asparagus;
- berries;
- grapes;
- honey;
- hops;
- tree fruits or nuts.

You may use a free online tool www.fsa.usda.gov/nap to determine whether your crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for your operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price available, including coverage for organics

and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact your [county FSA office](#).

October Priorities for FSA Staff

The majority of FSA program payments commence in October. FSA staff in county offices will be focused on processing payments through much of the month. This may affect how quickly staff can process other business, with the exception of farm loans. We realize producers rely on receiving payments timely and appreciate your patience.

Celebrate Taste Washington Day

[Taste Washington Day](#) is a day for school districts around the state celebrate Farm to School and local agriculture. On October 4, or a day in October they choose, nutrition services, school gardeners, teachers, administrators, and volunteers all over Washington serve school meals with local ingredients and do activities to learn about the farms that feed us.

Cafeterias across the state celebrate how farm to school looks in their district by featuring local products, highlighting farm names on the menu and salad bar, putting up posters about Washington agriculture, or hosting farmers in the cafeteria! School gardeners host classes or lunchtime in the garden, and teachers do food and agriculture related lessons in the classroom. Share your activities and promotion on social media with the #TasteWADay and #Wafarmtoschool hashtags!

This celebration was cooked up by the Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) with support from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Child Nutrition Services to promote locally grown food served in school meals. It's a kick off for National Farm to School Month.

Women in Ag Conference Takes Place November 18 in Multiple Locations

In its sixth year, the Women in Ag Conference offers Northwest farmers and ranchers an educational opportunity without having to travel great distances. The 2017 conference occurs November 18 at approximately 30 locations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The theme is "Yes we can" and will feature keynote speaker Anne Schwartz, a founder of the organic community in Washington state and Alexis Taylor, Oregon Director of Agriculture. These speakers will be video streamed to all conference sites. Additionally, each site will have a local panel of speakers.

The conference is an acknowledgement that women prefer collaborative learning environments and find it difficult to travel long distances to attend conferences. Male farmers and ranchers are welcome to attend.

Registration for the conference is open. More Information and registration can be accessed at <http://womeninag.wsu.edu/>. Anyone needing special accommodations to attend may contact Donna Rolan at 509-745-8531.

Important Dates and Deadlines

October 9, 2017 – FSA offices closed for Columbus Day holiday.

November 1, 2017 – Deadline for 2017 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) applications.

November 1, 2017 - 2018 ARC/PLC enrollment begins.

November 10, 2017 – FSA offices closed for Veterans' Day holiday.

November 6, 2017 – County Committee election ballots mailed to eligible voters.

November 20, 2017 – NAP application deadline for fall-seeded crops (see list in article above).

November 23, 2017 – FSA offices closed for Thanksgiving Day holiday.

December 6, 2017 – County Committee election ballots due to FSA county offices.

December 15, 2017 – Acreage reporting deadline for fall seeded crops and perennial forage.

For previous issues of the FSA Washington newsletter and a list of annual program **reminders**, check the [newsletter page](#) on the FSA Washington website.

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