

September 2013



## Alabama FSA State Updates

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### Alabama FSA State Office

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**State Executive Director:**  
Daniel Robinson

**State Committee Members:**  
Dr. Walter Hill, Chairperson  
Laura Elliott, Member  
Danny Ellison, Member  
George Hodge, Member  
Fred Hughes, Member

**Next State Committee Meeting:**  
October 8-9, 2013

### Topics for September

- [NAP Reminders](#)
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### NAP Reminders

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all applicable NAP crops must be purchased prior to the application closing date for the crop. September 30, 2013, is the application closing date for several varieties of grasses, barley, canola, oats, rye, strawberries, triticale, vetch, and wheat.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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### Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to inform farmers and ranchers that have recently experienced damages due to natural disasters, that FSA programs may exist to aid producers.

The following counties were recently named primary or contiguous to a natural disaster area due to frost and freezing temperatures that occurred March 25-29, 2013: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington,

Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Sumter, and Washington.

The following counties were recently named contiguous to a natural disaster area due to excessive rain and flooding that occurred March 1, 2013: Jackson and Lauderdale.

The following counties were recently named contiguous to a natural disaster area, due to excessive rain and flooding that occurred June 4, 2013, through August 1, 2013: Covington, Escambia, Geneva, and Houston.

The designations make all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at the disaster assistance program page <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>.

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## Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

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## Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm. Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all

producers involved.

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## Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate 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.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Upcoming FSA Microloan Workshops

FSA is hosting five Microloan workshops to be held in west Alabama. The workshops will help farmers and ranchers understand the Microloan program, eligibility requirements and the application process.

FSA offers a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program is also useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Microloan funds may be used to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses.

The workshops will be held as follows:

- September 19, 2013, Central Farmers Co-op, 2519. U. S. Hwy. 80 W., Selma, AL, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- September 25, 2013, Marengo County Library, 507 North Main St., Linden, AL, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- September 30, 2013, Monroe County USDA Service Center, 334 Agricultural Dr., Monroeville, AL, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- October 10, 2013, Marion Depot, 1200 Washington St., Marion, AL, 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
- October 17, 2013, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund Auditorium, 575 Federation Road, Epes, Alabama, 3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

To register for attendance, call 205-553-1733, Ext. 2. For more information, please contact Gretchen Thomas at 205-553-1733.

These workshops are being held as a part of the Alabama StrikeForce Initiative for rural growth and opportunity.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings should contact Cassandra Searight at 334-279-3501, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, or email at [cassandra.searight@al.usda.gov](mailto:cassandra.searight@al.usda.gov).

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