

Nov. 3, 2014



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- [Nov. 3rd \(TODAY\) Deadline for the 2014 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\) Program](#)
- [Nov. 17th Deadline for Reporting Fall Crops: 2015 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for Montana](#)
- [Montana agricultural producers invited to USDA-MSU Farm Bill Meetings](#)
- [Nov. 10th Montana Farm Bill Webinar Scheduled on New USDA Programs](#)
- [Additional FSA Farm Bill Meetings Scheduled Across Montana](#)
- [Key Dates of New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs](#)
- [Average Crop Revenue Election \(ACRE\) Payments for 2013 Corn in Montana](#)
- [2014 CRP Payments](#)
- [USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadlines](#)
- [County Committee Elections: Watch Your Mailbox for Ballot](#)
- [Important FSA Dates to Remember](#)

Montana FSA: November 2014 eNewsletter

USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA)

P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone: 406.587.6872
Fax: 855.546.0264
Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

State Executive Director:
Bruce Nelson

State Committee:
Steve Carney, Chair
Floyd Dahlman
Kelly Flaherty-Settle
Hans McPherson
Patricia Quisno

Montana USDA

Nov. 3rd (TODAY) Deadline for the 2014 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Program *In Montana, Excessive Rain Now Approved as an Eligible Loss Condition for Livestock Feed Losses under the 2014 ELAP Program*

Today, Nov. 3rd is the enrollment deadline for the 2014 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) program. The ELAP deadline is normally Nov. 1st however because that day falls on a Saturday this year's deadline is Nov. 3, 2014.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible

Directories:

[Online Directory of FSA Offices](#)

[PDF of Montana FSA Directory](#)

[PDF of Montana USDA Directory](#)

Reasonable

Accommodations: People with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs 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

producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as flooding, blizzards and wildfires. Livestock producers that suffered damaged or destroyed mechanically harvested forage, either in the field or in the stack, due to excessive rain may now be eligible for compensation under ELAP. Producers must file a notice of loss and application for payment by **Nov. 3, 2014** to be considered eligible. Producers are also required to submit all supporting documentation to support their losses by the deadline. There are no late-file provisions under the ELAP program. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

More information on ELAP and/or other FSA disaster programs are available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Nov. 17th Deadline for Reporting Fall Crops: 2015 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for Montana

Producers are reminded to file their 2015 acreage reports with their local FSA county office by the common acreage reporting deadlines of:

- **Nov. 17:** 2015 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
- **Jan. 2, 2015** – (or 30 days after placement of colonies) Honey covered under Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- **Jan. 15, 2015** – Cherries, Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed
- **July 15, 2015** – Spring Alfalfa Seed, Barley, Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Forage Seeding, Mustard, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and all other crops.

Please contact your local FSA office to obtain a copy of your 2015 acreage compliance maps or schedule an appointment to complete your crop certification. In order for your fall acreage report to be considered timely filed, and avoid possible late file fees, you must contact the office by Nov. 17, 2014.

Montana agricultural producers invited to USDA-MSU Farm Bill Meetings

USDA Farm Service Agency, in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency and Montana State University, have been traveling the state to discuss important new programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 with Montana producers. A series of 28 joint meetings began on Oct. 15 and run through Nov. 12 to focus on the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) administered by FSA and the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) administered by RMA through federal crop insurance providers. MSU Extension will explain the new online Farm Bill Decision Tool that is available to assist producers in understanding their options. The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes three FSA program election options: PLC, ARC-County (ARC-CO) and ARC-Individual (ARC-IC). Producers must make a one-time decision to retain or reallocate crop bases, to retain or update program payment yields and select the type of coverage (price protection, county revenue protection, and/or individual revenue protection) for the 2014-18 crop years.

The public can attend any of the upcoming joint meetings:

Nov. 3: **Lame Deer**, 2-6 p.m., Chief Dull Knife College, Room 205 (1 College Dr.)

Nov. 4: **Crow Agency**, 9 a.m. to noon, Little Big Horn College Library Programs Room (8645 South Weaver Dr.) ***Note LBHC Meeting Room Was Recently Changed to the Library*

Nov. 4: **Billings**, 2-6 p.m., Big Horn Resort and Convention Center (1801 Majestic Lane)

Nov. 5: **Harlowton**, 8 a.m. to noon, Kiwanis Youth Center Facility (204 Third St. NE)

Nov. 5: **Hobson**, 2-6 p.m., Bos Terra Feedlot Auditorium (342 Sale Barn Drive)

Nov. 6: **Rocky Boy Agency**, 9 a.m. to noon, Jon Morsette Vocational Technical Center (8294 Upper Box Elder Road, Box Elder)

Nov. 6: **Fort Belknap Agency**, 2-6 p.m., Aaniiih Nakoda College, Returning Buffalo Building, Room 209 (269 Blackfeet Avenue/Fort Belknap Agency)

[Nov. 10: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Webinar Access Flyer \(See Webinar article below\)](#)

Nov. 12: **Whitehall**, 2-6 p.m., Whitehall Community Center (11 North Division)

A printable Montana schedule, with local contact information, is available at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2014mtusdamsufarmbillmtgs.pdf.

Nov. 10th Montana Farm Bill Webinar Scheduled on New USDA Programs

Montana agricultural producers are invited to participate in an online webinar on Nov. 10 to learn about important new programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the 2014 Farm Bill. The content of this webinar is similar to the 28 joint USDA-MSU Farm Bill meetings being conducted across Montana in October and November.

To join the webinar from your computer, log onto: <http://msuextensionconnect.org/farmbill/>. Then, type in your name under the "Guest log in" and click "Enter Room."

The Webinar system will allow a maximum of 500 participants within the Webinar Room (an online meeting room) and 300 lines on the telephone bridge. If participants want to interact with the webinar presenters through a telephone bridge they can call into 1-888-238-7805, type in virtual room number 622240#. Participants who just want to listen to the webinar do not have to call into the telephone bridge.

To test Adobe Diagnostic Test Connect connections go to:

http://msuextensionconnect.org/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm. This diagnostic test will ensure your computer and network connections are properly configured to provide you with the best possible webinar experience.

The webinar schedule is: FSA will present on ARC-PLC from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., RMA will present on SCO from 11:15 a.m. to Noon and MSU will present on the producer decision tool from 1 to 2 p.m. A printable Webinar access flyer is available at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/20141110_mtwbinaar.pdf.

For a list of host locations in Montana that are available to view the Webinar visit:

<http://www.montana.edu/farmbill/hostlocations.html>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate should contact Jennifer Cole, Montana FSA State Civil Rights Coordinator, at 406.587.6786 and/or jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Please submit your request by Close of Business on Nov. 6. You may also contact the local FSA County Executive Director.

Additional FSA Farm Bill Meetings Scheduled Across Montana

Producers are invited to attend the following additional 2014 Farm Bill Meetings hosted by local FSA offices on the new ARC and PLC programs:

- **Nov. 5** at 9 a.m. at the Stockman Café in **Rapelje** located at 205 4th St.
- **Nov. 5** at 2 p.m. at the Fire Hall in **Columbus** located at 944 East Pike Ave.
- **Nov. 7** at 2:30 p.m. at the Chester/Joplin/Inverness (CJI) School Auditorium in **Chester**
- **Nov. 12** at 1 p.m. at the USDA Service Center Meeting Room in **Big Timber** located at Highway 10 East
- **Nov. 12** at 1:30 p.m. at the **Ryegate** USDA Service Center located at 206 1st St. North
- **Nov. 13** at 1 p.m. at the Ag Center in **Fort Benton** located at 1205 20th St.
- **Nov. 13** at 1:30 p.m. at the **Roundup** MSU Extension Office located at 204 8th Ave. E in Roundup
- **Nov. 18** at 1 p.m. at the **Big Sandy** High School auditorium located at 398 1st Ave
- **Nov. 19** at 9 a.m. at the Community Center in **Fairfield** located at 603 Central Ave.
- **Nov. 19** at 1:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center Conference Room in **Harlowton** located at 809 2nd Ave. NW
- **Nov. 19** at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Living Center at the Montana ExpoPark in **Great Falls** located at 400 3rd St. NW
- **Nov. 20** at 1 p.m. Ag Center in **Fort Benton** located at 1205 20th St.
- **Dec. 18** at 3 p.m. at **Miles City** Community College Room 106 located at 2715 Dickinson St.

***These are the first additional local meetings scheduled to date. More meetings are being planned by local FSA offices that will be announced via Montana FSA eNews.**

Key Dates of New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015:** Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

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 rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES: For more information, visit MSU Extension's Farm Bill website at <http://www.montana.edu/farmbill>, FSA's national Farm Bill website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill>, Montana FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt and RMA's national Farm Bill website at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/news/currentissues/farmbill/>.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Payments for 2013 Corn in Montana

FSA has begun distributing Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for revenue losses associated with corn in Montana. Discontinued by the 2014 Farm Bill, the ACRE program provided producers with protection from revenue losses for crops grown in 2009-2013. Crops eligible for October payments include corn grown in the 2013 crop year. Producers on 78 farms in Montana enrolled 72,000 acres in ACRE. The Budget Control Act passed by Congress in 2011 requires these payments to be reduced by 5.1 percent. For more information on ACRE, producers should contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

2014 CRP Payments

Since early October, FSA has distributed more than \$47.3 million in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants in Montana. CRP payments are exempt from sequestration.

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadlines *Enrollment Continues Through Dec. 5; Comments Accepted Until Dec. 15*

USDA is extending the deadlines for the dairy Margin Protection Program. Farmers now have until Dec. 5, 2014, to enroll in the voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill. The program provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

Producers are encouraged to use the online Web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also extended the opportunity for public comments on both the Margin Protection Program and the Dairy Product Donation Program until Dec. 15, 2014. Comments can be submitted to USDA via the regulations.gov website at <http://go.usa.gov/GJSA>.

County Committee Elections: Watch Your Mailbox for Ballot

Watch your mailbox for your official FSA county office committee election ballot starting early this month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2014. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on **Dec. 1, 2014**.

Important FSA Dates to Remember

- **Nov. 3:** 2014 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Nov. 3:** FSA County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP Acres
- **Nov. 17:** 2015 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. 28:** Dairy Margin Protection Program Enrollment Deadline for 2014 and 2015
- **Dec. 1:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA County Office
- **Dec. 1:** 2015 NAP Sales Closing Date for 2015 Honey Producers

- **Jan. 1:** Newly elected county committee members take office
- **Jan. 2:** 2015 Acreage Reporting Deadline (or 30 days after placement of colonies) Honey covered under NAP
- **Jan. 15:** 2015 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Cherries, Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed
- **Jan. 30:** 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Jan 30:** Deadline to submit Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation for Loss for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (or 90 days after disaster event or loss was apparent)
- **Jan. 30:** Deadline to request early CRP contract termination
- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign ARC or PLC contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015:** ARC or PLC payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

For more information, call or visit [your local FSA county office.](#)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).