

From: [USDA Farm Service Agency](#)
To: [Bieker, Chris - FSA, Spokane, WA](#)
Subject: August 2014 WA FSA Newsletter
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 3:39:36 PM

August 2014

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Washington State FSA Updates

WA State FSA Office

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State Executive Director:
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Next State Committee

Meeting: September 3
at 8:15 am

ARC/PLC Base Reallocation Letters

You may have, or you will be, receiving a letter from FSA talking about the base acres on your farm. This is intended to provide information for the upcoming base reallocation option for the Average Revenue Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) programs. While we currently do not have the software to update bases, this letter starts the ARC or PLC signup process. Please review the letter for accuracy, as not all the information may be complete. If you had a farm where a tract combination or tract division occurred, the information prior to that will not be complete. County offices are researching those cases now to update your records. If there are any discrepancies, please contact your [county office](#).

CRP Update

If you are planning to extend your expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract or enroll new land in the continuous CRP, all signatures must be on the contract by mid-September. You also need to have a number of supporting documents completed, which include eligibility forms and a conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please contact your [county office](#) for more information.

ELAP Deadline extended

The enrollment deadline for the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) has been extended to **Aug. 15, 2014**.

The new deadline gives livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses because of disease, adverse weather, wildfires or colony collapse disorder between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2013, an additional two weeks to enroll in ELAP.

For more information you can go [here](#).

Farm Ownership Loans Available

FSA makes loans and guarantees bank-made loans to farmers and ranchers to build and sustain family farms in support of a thriving agricultural economy.

One of the loan programs FSA offers includes direct farm ownership loans. Direct loans can be made up to \$300,000 and are handled by farm loan officers in local county offices. Loan funds can be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings, improve structures, replace orchard trees, pay closing costs and invest in soil and water conservation and protection.

Another option available to borrowers is the use of participation funds. If, for example, a particular property is more than the \$300,000 direct loan limit, borrowers may apply for both an FSA direct loan and an FSA guaranteed loan from a commercial lender.

More information about FSA loans can be found [here](#), and potential applicants are encouraged to contact your [county office](#).

Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments Available

With the start of harvest, FSA wants to remind farmers and ranchers about the availability of commodity loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP). Commodity loans are a marketing tool allowing an influx of cash for operating expenses using the crop as collateral. This allows you to delay sale of the crop until more favorable conditions emerge, rather than selling the crop soon after harvest, when prices are traditionally at their lowest. The LDPs are a direct payment made in lieu of a commodity loan and are available when the Commodity Credit Corporation determined value (the lesser of the 30 day or 5 day average terminal market price for the crop adjusted for differentials and market adjustments) falls below the county loan rate. To be eligible for an LDP, you must have form [CCC-633EZ](#) on file at your local [county office](#) before you lose beneficial interest in your crop.

Eligible crops for loan or LDP are barley, corn, honey, oats, grain sorghum, oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame seed, soybeans, sunflower seeds), pulse crops (chickpeas, dry peas, lentils), wheat, wool, mohair and unshorn pelts located in an approved farm or warehouse storage.

National and county loan rates can be found [here](#). Daily LDP rates can be found [here](#).

Reporting Losses From Natural Disasters

Farmers and ranchers affected by wildfires or other weather events are encouraged to keep accurate records and document losses to their local Farm Service Agency office.

Accurate records of losses will help establish eligibility for programs. Also, each FSA County Committee can request additional resources like the Emergency Conservation Program when it has a complete picture of the damage.

You should provide information as soon as losses become apparent, no later than 30 days after noticing the loss. Acceptable information includes:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed; and
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records.

Additional programs available to assist includes the Emergency Conservation Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. For more information on disaster assistance programs, go online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>, or contact the nearest [USDA Service Center](#).

NAP Buy-Up Provisions

The 2014 Farm Bill included provisions where additional coverage could be purchased under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The NAP provides financial assistance on crops for which federal crop insurance is not available, when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting affects a NAP covered crop or crops because of a natural disaster. Program regulations are still being written, but, buy-up will only be available for those crops with an existing 2015 NAP application for coverage. Buy-up allows for purchasing of additional coverage, in 5 percent increments up to 65 percent of your crop's approved yield. The standard catastrophic level for NAP coverage is 50 percent. The next three deadlines to purchase 2015 NAP coverage are:

- **9/02/14** – Artichokes; aquaculture; beets (for stecklings); cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turf grass sod; turnips (for seed or fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.
 - **9/30/14** – Garlic; mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage and forage seed crops; wheat
 - **11/20/14** - All Perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.
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National Farmers Market Week

August 3-9 marks the 15th annual National Farmers Market Week. Thousands of farmers markets across the county offer consumers fresh, affordable, convenient and healthy products directly from the farm. They offer market opportunities for local producers and provide new avenues to access fresh, seasonal ingredients. Local food is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture. In the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there were 150,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide selling to local retailers; and 50,000 were selling directly to consumers.

Click [here](#) for a nationwide, searchable directory of farmers markets. There are more than 150 active farmers markets in the state.

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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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