

May 2015



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

For farmers with federal crop insurance to be eligible for insurance premium support, a completed and signed Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification, AD-1026, must be on file with the FSA by June 1, 2015.

Many Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and most producers already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete, then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

Acreage Reporting Dates Approaching

All producers are encouraged to visit the local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Accurate and timely reporting is necessary for various FSA program eligibility requirements.

The following are acreage reporting dates for Missouri:

May 15 - Spring oats, potatoes

July 15 - Burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid seed corn, popcorn, rice, soybeans

and all other crops and CRP acreage.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage can be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, report the new acreage no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation will be necessary for the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the final acreage reporting date is July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the crop's acreage reporting date, or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local county FSA office.

Filing a Notice of Loss

Producers experiencing failed acreage or prevented planting should timely file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, 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, complete an acreage report and the CCC-576 within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop. [Click here](#) for final planting dates for Missouri.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experience losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2015 must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are not eligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must have a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA has programs to assist beginning farmers finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Operating loans are available as well as loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for targeted underserved producers.

A targeted underserved producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Value Added Producer Grants through Rural Development

Approximately \$30 million in funding is available to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities for FY 2015. The grants help agricultural producers increase their income by expanding marketing opportunities, creating new products or developing new uses for existing products.

The maximum award per grant is \$250,000 for working capital and \$75,000 for planning. Planning grants can be used to facilitate economic planning activities to determine the viability of a value-added venture, and may include costs for an independent feasibility study and development of a marketing and business plan. Working capital grants are used for operational costs directly related to processing and/or marketing of the value-added product.

USDA Rural Development is funding an array of projects involving locally-produced and marketed foods. These include cheese, wine, reduced-cholesterol dairy products, produce, packaged poultry, pork and beef products, and a variety of processed or prepared foods from locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

Applications must be submitted by **July 7, 2015** in order to be considered for funding.

For more information on VAPG contact (573) 876-9321 or email nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov.

Current Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for May 2015	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Direct Farm Ownership - Joint Financing	2.50%
Emergency Loans	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.000%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
May 15	Final date to report spring oats and potatoes.
May 25	Memorial Day holiday. FSA offices are closed.
May 31	Final availability date for 2014 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for feed grains, upland cotton, soybeans & minor oilseeds.
June 1	MPP-Dairy premium balances are due.
June 15	Nomination period begins for county committee elections.
July 1	MPP-Dairy sign up begins for 2016 coverage.
July 15	Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid seed corn, popcorn, rice, soybean and all other crops.

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).