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North Dakota FSA eNews

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From the State Executive Director

Summer months in North Dakota can go by so fast when we are busy with haying, spraying, county fairs and all those family affairs. The crops are maturing and harvest will soon be starting for small grains. USDA recently launched a new website for new farmers. Check it out , it's GREAT: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/newfarmers?navid=newfarmers>

--Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director

USDA Extends Deadline for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

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. Originally, program sign-up was scheduled to end Aug. 1.

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.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA service center or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov for additional information regarding ELAP.

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CRP 1-Year Contract Extensions

Beginning June 9, 2014, certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2014, may extend all or part of the contract acreage for a 1-year period at the same payment rate. No general signup is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2014.

The signup period for the 1-year extension ends August 8, 2014.

Contracts ineligible to be extended for 1-year are those contracts that will exceed a total of 15 years. Therefore, contracts that were approved for contract lengths of 14 years and 1 month up to 15 years will NOT be eligible for the 1-year extension.

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Managed Haying or Grazing of Certain CRP Acreages

CRP participants may hay or graze certain CRP acreages under Managed Haying/Grazing provisions. The haying and grazing period begins August 2nd. The haying operation must end on September 1, 2014, whereas the grazing activity could be authorized as late as September 30, 2014, depending on the approved stocking rate for the acreage. Interested CRP participants must complete the applicable application process and receive approval from their local FSA Office prior to any harvesting or grazing of CRP.

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Early Land Prep for CRP Contracts Expiring September 30, 2014

CRP participants may receive authorization to begin seedbed preparation for a fall or spring-seeded crops during the final year of the CRP contract. This provision applies to acreage enrolled in certain CRP practices. Participants should contact the County FSA Office to determine eligibility. Participants will also have to revise their Conservation Plan of Operations at the NRCS office and receive approval from FSA prior to destruction of the cover.

Participants who are preparing for a fall-seeded crop may physically destroy cover beginning July 1 of the final year without a payment reduction. The fall-seeded crop must be planted if the cover is destroyed.

Participants who are preparing for a spring-seeded crop may destroy cover chemically beginning August 2 of the final contract year.

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Preventing Crop Insurance Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers

by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

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Fall Acreage Reporting Deadline

Producers with the following crops have a reporting deadline of November 15 for FSA purposes: apiculture, perennial forage, PRF, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains. Therefore, a producer planting winter wheat in the fall of 2014 for harvest in 2015, for example, will be required to report the acreage to FSA by November 15, 2014, to be considered timely filed.

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Late-Filed Acreage Reports

The deadline for timely filing an acreage report in North Dakota for spring-seeded crops for the 2014 program year was July 15, 2014. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2014 ARC/PLC payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDP's. Additionally, participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Although the reporting deadline has passed, county offices will accept late-filed acreage reports providing certain criteria are met. Contact your local county office for additional information relative to late-filed acreage reports.

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2014 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

Producers with a NAP policy should file a notice of loss if they believe their crops have suffered a yield loss. In addition, if a producer is going to abandon a crop with NAP coverage, the crop must be appraised prior to destruction of the acreage to ensure coverage. Producers with NAP coverage on grazing land should also file a notice of loss if they have suffered a loss in grazing capacity on pastures.

A NAP payment will be made if a unit suffers a loss of production in excess of 50 percent. The payment rate for NAP is 55 percent of the established market price for the crop.

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Farm Service Agency Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?

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Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the eligible net cost of the storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. FSA requires additional security for all loans exceeding \$100,000 or when the aggregate amount of FSFL loans exceeds \$100,000. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Sign-up for FSFL program is continuous as long as CCC funding is available. An FSFL loan must be approved before authorizing delivery of equipment or materials, site preparation, or construction. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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LDP Applications

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) are available when the CCC-determined market repayment rate is below the commodity loan rate. Currently, there are no crop year 2014 commodities earning an LDP.

LDP's are only available on a commodity after the commodity is harvested, or sheared if wool or mohair, or extracted if honey. If an LDP payment is requested, a producer agrees to forego obtaining a loan on the same quantity.

LDP applications can be filed in person, by fax or electronically through the eLDP process.

The CCC-633 EZ is a multi-part form. Page 1 is filed as an intention to request LDP benefits. It must be filed each crop year and will cover all farms and commodities in which a producer has an interest for the 2014 crop year. Page 1 must be filed before beneficial interest is lost in the commodity and before a request for payment is completed on pages 2-4. The current version of the form and only one accepted by CCC is dated March 28, 2014. The completion of page 1 does not cause a producer to lose loan eligibility for the commodity. The option of obtaining a loan is maintained until a quantity is requested on the page 2 or 4 payment request.

Page 2 of the form is used to request the LDP payment for wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, pulse crops and honey. Page 4 is used to request mohair, wool and unshorn pelt LDP payments. Page 2 and page 4 of the application must be filed in the county FSA office that maintains the farm records for the farm that produced the requested commodity.

If LDP's become available in crop year 2014, form CCC-941 is required to determine producer or entity eligibility based on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

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Important Dates and Deadlines

August 8 - CRP Extension Signup Ends

August 15 - 2012 and 2013 ELAP Signup Ends

September 1 - CRP Managed Haying Ends

September 30 - 2015 Rye NAP Coverage Deadline

December 2 - 2015 Honey NAP Coverage Deadline

November 15 - 2015 Crop Year Acreage Reporting deadline for fall seeded crops

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August Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans - 1.125%

Operating Loans - 2.125%

Farm Ownership Loans - 3.750%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%

Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 2.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.625%

Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.750%

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