

November 2014



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Alaska State and County FSA Updates

Alaska State FSA Office
800 W Evergreen, Ste 216
Palmer, AK 99645
www.fsa.usda.gov/ak

State Executive Director
Danny Consenstein
907-761-7738
Cell: 907-841-4890
Email:
danny.consenstein@ak.usda.gov

Northern County Office
PO Box 585
Delta Junction, AK 99737

**County Executive
Director/Farm Loan Officer**
Lloyd Wilhelm
907-895-4242 ext 150
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RTCP Deadline to Turn In Your Receipts Extended to December 17, 2014

The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Program (RTCP) signup ended on September 8, 2014. This program covered transportation expenses incurred from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. If you applied for the RTCP program, and have not turned in all your receipts in to the FSA office, now is the time to do so. If you have any questions, contact your local FSA office.

USDA Releases New State- by-State "Made in Rural

Email:
lloyd.wilhelm@ak.usda.gov

Southern County Office
800 W Evergreen, Ste 216
Palmer, AK 99645

County Executive Director
Erin Sturdivant
907-761-7754
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erin.sturdivant@ak.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager
Jeff Curry
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Hours Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings:
Northern Co Dec TBA
Southern Co Dec 9 3:30 pm

America "Report"

As part of the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitment to strengthening rural economies, Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new state-by-state "Made in Rural America" report illustrating the impact of USDA investments in rural communities. Each state factsheet highlights specific USDA investments in rural businesses, manufacturing, energy, water and other infrastructure development. They also outline how USDA is helping rural communities attract businesses and families by investing in housing and broadband.

These fact sheets reflect Secretary Vilsack's efforts to strengthen the "four pillars" of a new economy in rural America: developing a robust bio-based economy; promoting exports and production agriculture fueled by increased productivity and research; encouraging conservation including land management, stewardship and outdoor recreational opportunities; and building a strong local and regional food system to harness entrepreneurial innovation and help small and medium-sized family farms succeed in rural America.

The report's state by state fact sheets are available at www.usda.gov/opportunities.

County Committee Elections

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2014. If for some reason you didn'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.

The following are this year's candidates who have been nominated in their LAA's to serve as a committee member. All candidates have agreed to serve if elected.

Northern County LAA-2

LAA-2 Includes the area that begins where the Clear-water road intersects the AK Hwy NE to north line of Southeast Fairbanks census area, proceeding to Canadian border, then SE following Canadian border where the Alaska Gateway Regional Educational Attendance Area (AKGREAA) line intersects the Canadian border, turning NW following AKGREAA line to the AK Hwy, then proceed NW on AK Hwy to Clearwater road.

Roger Hendry resides on Cummings Road Delta Junction. Roger has been raising forage crops

and livestock as well as potatoes since 1989. Roger Hendry is a member of Alaska Farm Bureau.

Randy Mayo resides on Spruce Road, Delta Junction. Randy has been managing the Steven's Village Bison Ranch for the past 5 years. The farm produces Bison for meat and raises small grain forage for animal feed. Randy is a member of the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Election Ballots will be Counted in Public at the Northern County FSA Office at 10:00 a.m. on December 4, 2014.

Southern County LAA -3

LAA-3 Includes all of the Matanuska Borough.

Rose Marie "Tiny" DePriest arrived as a Colonist in the Mat-Su Valley in 1935. Tiny worked with her parents farming over 100 acres of potatoes and without electricity she worked in the dairy operation. With her spouse, they own and operate the Tiny Moose Farm & Earth Products since 1957 with dairy operation and farming peas, oats and brome grass.

Pam Lewis of Palmer married into a third generation farm family 33 years ago. She has helped her husband with the planting and harvesting of several varieties of spuds. The last two years she has ventured into the greenhouse business, along with tending a nice outdoor veggie garden where she has been harvesting and selling her produce at the Anchorage Farmers' Market.

Election Ballots will be Counted in Public at the Southern County FSA Office at 3:30 p.m. on December 4, 2014.

Eligible voters in the above local administrative area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1** or **2**, plus **3**, below, are eligible to vote: **1.** Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states. **2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm. **3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection 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>

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

USDA is raising the borrowing limit for the microloan program from \$35,000 to \$50,000, effective Nov. 7, 2014. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$50,000 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. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) manages the federal crop

insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs implemented by NRCS.

Many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If however 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.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov . USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information. A listing of service center locations is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Save Time - Make an Appointment with FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> .

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).
