



Colorado

State - Wide
May 2012

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Dates to Remember

May 31

Final date for Marketing Assistance Loan for crops as listed: Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seed

June 1 – Deadlines

SURE Sign-up
DCP/ACRE Sign-up
Reporting Farm Record Changes

July 15 – Deadline

2012 acreage reporting for: Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Millet, Spring Oats, Onions, Popcorn, Potatoes, Silage Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat

REVISED MAY 30TH

Sign-up for GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is celebrating the United States Department of Agriculture's 150th anniversary. USDA was founded in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Department of Agriculture Act that established the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since the start, USDA has helped support the tremendous growth and success of American agriculture. FSA realizes that farmers and ranchers take risks everyday and FSA is looking forward to continue serving our country's producers while addressing the changing needs of agriculture and rural America.

May 31st Deadline for Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) provide interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell the commodities at that time. The deadline to apply for 2011 corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower, small chickpeas, soybeans, and sunflower seed is May 31, 2012.

June 1, Last Day to Sign-up for DCP/ACRE

All producers with a share of base acres on a farm MUST sign the DCP/ACRE contract by June 1, 2012, or the farm will be ineligible for payment. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can make an appointment at their local USDA Service Center to complete their contract.

June 1, 2012 Last Day to Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

The sign-up for 2010 crop losses ends June 1, 2012.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred during the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

Acreage Certification Deadline

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop.

Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by July 15th for Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Millet, Onions, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Silage Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, and all other spring seed crops.

For the 2012 NAP crops - Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of July 15 for all crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster.

Producers who request prevented planting must report their acreage and complete a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, Part B within 15 days after the final planting date.

Producers will need to provide documentation showing field preparation, seed purchase, and other information that proves their intent to plant the acreage.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” means converting land from native vegetation, such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after December 23, 1985. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution (recon) is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

- Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
 - Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
1. DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
 2. Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

Minority Farm Register

Minority farmers and ranchers across the nation can voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies.

The register is a shared outreach list that will help USDA, community-based organizations (CBOs) and minority-serving educational institutions communicate with minority farmers and ranchers. Producers who join the register may receive outreach materials, newsletters and program announcements from USDA agencies and approved outreach partners. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register.

Individuals wishing to join the Register should visit their local County FSA office and complete the registration form. Registration forms are also available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site (www.fsa.usda.gov) under "Forms."

Readers are advised that dates for FSA programs in Colorado are often county-specific. Please contact your local FSA office for detailed information pertaining to your operation.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012 (Interest rates are subject to change)	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.50%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Colorado Farm Service Agency

State Committee

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Trudy Kareus, State Executive Director