



## Colorado

State – Wide  
June 2012

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#### Dates to Remember

##### 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

##### July 15 – Deadline

2011 Production Reports are  
due for the ACRE Program.

##### August 1 - Deadline

COC nomination period ends

##### Immediate – Deadline

File AGI Verification Consent  
Forms with IRS

#### 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>.

#### County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2012 through Aug. 1, 2012. For more information contact your local FSA office.

#### Nomination forms can be found at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

Nomination forms can also be found in Spanish at:

[http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A\\_SPANISH.PDF](http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A_SPANISH.PDF)

#### USDA Announces Results for CRP General Sign-up

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43<sup>rd</sup> Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. During the extended five-week signup, the Department received nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres of land, demonstrating the CRP's continuing leadership as one of our nation's most successful voluntary efforts to conserve land and improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources.

Under Vilsack's leadership, USDA has now enrolled nearly 12 million acres in the CRP since 2009. Currently, there are more than 29.6 million acres enrolled on more than 736,000 contracts.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program**

Producers on participating ACRE Program farms must annually report acreage and production to FSA. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility. 2011 production reports are due by July 15, 2012.

### **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.

### **Failed Acreage**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions

### **Payment Limitations**

FSA has replaced the manual forms CCC-902 and CCC-901 with an interview process known as the Business

File interview. The interview process will generate a new form known as the 902 which requires a signature from the producer or participant. Contact your local FSA office to make an appointment.

FSA also has a new combined AGI certification and consent form for 2012, "CCC-931 (dated 12-7-11) Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information."

### **Contributions**

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Each partner, stockholder, or member must be able to show, by reasonable means, that such activities are **performed on a regular basis** throughout the year, are **identifiable and documentable** and are **separate and distinct** from **any** other partner.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **FSA Seeks Comments on New Microloan Proposal**

To further assist beginning farmers and ranchers, FSA is seeking comments on a new Microloan program that would simplify and streamline the process for producers obtaining loans under \$35,000. The new Microloan program would cut the paperwork in half and simplify the loan application process.

The proposed microloan program rule may be viewed at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?area=home&subject=lare&topic=frd-pi>. Comments must be submitted no later than July 23, 2012, through the following website: <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail to Director, Loan Making Division (LMD), FSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522.

### **Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Reminder**

In order to maintain eligibility for LDP benefits, producers must complete page one of the "CCC-633 EZ - LDP Agreement and Request" before losing beneficial interest of the crop.

Before requesting LDP benefits, the producer must complete the remaining applicable pages of CCC-633 EZ before the final availability date for the commodity.

### **MILC Program Requirements Reminder**

Dairy producers must meet program requirements in order to maintain eligibility in the event that prices drop and trigger a MILC payment.

To maintain program eligibility, MILC participants must notify their local FSA office of any operation changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number. In order for dairy producers to receive a MILC payment, they must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements by completing, "CCC-931 - AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information."

Dairy producers who want to enroll in MILC must fill out, "CCC-580 - Milk Income Loss Contract" and select a start-month for which the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will begin issuing payments to the dairy operation. Current dairies that participate in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month before the selected MILC production start-month. The change must also be made before requesting payment and before the original MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on FSA's form, "CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification."

For more information about the MILC program, please contact your local FSA office or visit the web at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/tx](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx).

### **Members Appointed to Council for Native American Farming and Ranching**

Secretary Vilsack appointed 15 members to the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching. The council will advise the Secretary by suggesting changes to FSA regulations that would promote Native American participation in USDA programs. For a complete list of appointed members visit the following website:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=ner&newstype=newsrel&type=detail&item=nr\\_20120524\\_rel\\_0167.html](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=ner&newstype=newsrel&type=detail&item=nr_20120524_rel_0167.html)

### **Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were

discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**  
[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**  
[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle – The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

**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	3.625%
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

Marsha R Daughenbaugh, Chairperson

James H Hume, Member

Paul A Mailander, Member

Armando Valdez, Member

William "Bill" W Warren, Member

Trudy Kareus, State Executive Director

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