

September 2013



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## North Dakota FSA eNews

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## From the State Executive Director

The small grains harvest is in its final weeks and the reports I am getting are that yields are average to above and quality very good. Certain areas of the state had their challenges with prevent plant while others are experiencing dry conditions now that is putting stress on row crops. It always amazes me how different weather and growing conditions are across the great state of North Dakota.

In this newsletter are some important dates that we do not want producers to miss. Please take the time to read the newsletter, mark those dates and if you have any questions please call your county office. October is the month when we start making DCP/ACRE and CRP payments.

Have a safe September.

--Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director

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## **Finalizing 2013 DCP Contracts**

All producers with a share on a 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) contract must sign that contract no later than Monday, September 16, 2013. Any contract missing the signature of a producer who has a share on the contract will not be considered to be enrolled, which will result in no payments being issued for that farm. If you have any questions about the enrollment of your farm in the 2013 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, please contact your County Office as soon as possible.

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## **2013 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.

## **Fall Acreage Reporting Deadline**

Producers with the following crops have a reporting deadline of November 15 for both FSA and RMA purposes: apiculture, perennial forage, PRF, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains. Therefore, a producer planting winter wheat in the fall of 2013 for harvest in 2014, for example, will be required to report the acreage to FSA and RMA by November 15, 2013, to be considered timely filed.

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## **Reporting Managed Haying and Grazing Acreages**

CRP participants are reminded of the requirement to report the actual number of acres that were hayed or grazed under managed provisions. Acreages need to be reported within 10 days after the haying operation is completed or livestock have been removed from the acreage. CRP annual rental payments cannot be issued on contracts that received this authorization until the acreage report has been filed. Failure to report the acres hayed or grazed under this authority could result in termination of the CRP contract.

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## **Early Seedbed Preparation**

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 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 in a normal workmanlike manner. 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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## 2014 NAP Application for Coverage

The Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster. The program covers crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production, based upon your approved yield and reported acreage. To apply for 2014 crop coverage, producers must complete a CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the service fee. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer in all counties.

Producers must purchase NAP policies for rye by September 30, 2013, honey by December 2, 2013 and for all spring planted crops, including grass for hay and grazing, by the 2014 sales closing date of March 15, 2014.

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## Maintaining DCP/ACRE Base Acres

DCP/ACRE participants are required to protect all base acres from erosion and weeds. Fields designated as "base acres" must have an eligible cover such as crop residue or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be maintained. Failure to control weeds on base acres may result in a reduction of program benefits if the County Committee determines that a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion was not made.

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## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Farm 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 members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged 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.

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## Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to 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 median size.
- Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA

Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Late-Filed Acreage Reports

The deadline for timely filing an acreage report in North Dakota for the 2013 program year was extended from July 15 to August 2, 2013. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2013 DCP/ACRE 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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## Commodity Loan Repayments

Outstanding commodity loans can be repaid at any time at principal plus interest. Market rate loan repayments can be made on nonrecourse loans prior to loan maturity, when the market repayment rate is less than principal plus interest. Currently, there are no commodities with a market repayment rate less than principal plus interest. Matured loans cannot be repaid at the market repayment rate.

If the sales proceeds are needed to repay the loan, a marketing authorization (CCC-681-1) can be requested. The request can either be made in person or by telephone. The terms of the marketing authorization can be either 15 or 30 calendar days. All parties who signed the note are responsible for repaying the loan. If the buyer does not repay the loan as required by the marketing authorization, CCC will make demand for repayment on the producers who signed the note. If a market repayment option is available, the option cannot be used after loan maturity or when the buyer does not remit repayment within 15 days of the expiration date of the marketing authorization.

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## Notification Regarding Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments or disaster payments. Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits.

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## Crop Year 2013 Commodity Loan Rates

2013 crop commodity loan rates are available at any county FSA office, or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> and clicking on the "Price Support" link.

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## September Loan and Interest Rates

Commodity Loans - 1.125%  
Operating Loans - 1.875%  
Farm Ownership Loans - 4.000%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%  
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 2.875%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 2.000%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 2.625%  
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year - 2.875%

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

September 16 - DCP Signature deadline

September 30 - 2014 Rye NAP Coverage

September 30 - CRP Managed Grazing ends

November 4 - County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters

November 15 - 2014 Crop Year Acreage Reporting deadline for fall seeded crops

November 15 - All hay must be removed from CRP

December 2 - Last day to return county committee ballots to FSA County Office

December 2 - 2014 Honey NAP Coverage

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