



Colorado

State – Wide
November 2012

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Dates to Remember

October 22, 2012 – SURE
Signup begins

November 15, 2012 – 2013
Acreage Reporting Deadline
for Apiculture, Fall Barley,
Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall
Wheat, and other Fall-Seeded
Small Grains

November 15, 2012 - Crop
Insurance Sales Closing
Deadline for Pasture,
Rangeland and Forage Rainfall
Index (PRF-RI) Coverage

November 20, 2012 – NAP
Sales Closing Date for Apples,
Apricots, Cherries, Grapes,
Hops, Nectarines, Peaches,
Pears, Plums and Prunes

November 30, 2012 – Final
Day for CRP Emergency
Grazing on All Other Practices

December 1, 2012 - NAP
Sales Closing Date for Alfalfa,
Clover, Grass, Honey, Mixed
Forage, Mustard and Vetch

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 in order to receive notices, newsletters and electronic reminders that were formerly sent 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>.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMER AND RANCHER CLAIMS PERIOD NOW OPEN

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Hispanic and Women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release issued, click on the following link: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BEGINNING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

FSA Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced that the 2012 FSA county committee elections will begin on Monday, Nov. 5, with the mailing of ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the completed and signed ballot back in the county office is Dec. 3, 2012.

If for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify your local county office. More information can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

CHANGE TO 2013 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) have streamlined crop acreage certification deadlines to have common reporting dates. Starting in 2013, deadlines are:

- November 15, 2012 – Apiculture, Fall Barley, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.
- January 15, 2013 – Apples, Grapes, Peaches
- June 15, 2013 - Onions
- July 15, 2013 – Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Millet, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Silage Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, and all other crops

Fall seeded small grain crops include all wheat, oats and rye. Perennial forage crops include all forage crops to be hayed or grazed. Contact your county FSA office for an appointment to certify your fall crops or for more information on acreage reporting requirements.

SURE Signup Has Started

Signup up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program began on October 22, 2012 for 2011 crop year losses and ends on June 7, 2013. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011. For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements, please contact your local county office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

OVER THE COUNTY CHANNEL (OTCNET)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information. <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It benefits customers by reducing lost/misplaced checks and the potential for human error. It also speeds the check clearing process while reducing paper handling.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do not have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on our account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transactions?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

CHANGES TO IRS FORMS 1099-G AND 1099-MISC FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G was issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, the 1099-G reporting will change.

IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers) will only be issued to producers whose reportable payments total \$600 or more for the calendar year. Additionally, if the producer has at least \$600 in reportable payments received from multiple FSA offices, only one Form 1099-G will be issued.

IMPORTANT FALL DATES TO REMEMBER

November 15, 2012 – Deadline to report 2013 Apiculture, Fall Barley, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and other Fall-Seeded Small Grains. Contact your local county office to set up an appointment for fall acreage reporting.

November 20, 2012 – Deadline for NAP Sales Closing date for Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Hops, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums and Prunes.

November 30, 2012 – Final date for emergency CRP grazing. If emergency grazing occurs after October 1, 2012, report the acres grazed to your local FSA office by November 30, 2012.

December 1, 2012 – Deadline for NAP Sales Closing date for Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, Honey, Mixed Forage, Mustard, and Vetch.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM USDA TO BALED HAY PRODUCERS, SELLER, AND BUYERS

USDA has created an industry alert titled “Questions and Answers for Producers, Sellers, and Buyers of Baled Hay Moving from Areas under Quarantine for Imported Fire Ant.” This publication contains useful information to help respond to questions from farmers, ranchers, hay growers, and suppliers as they work to respond to adverse weather conditions and find important feed sources for livestock. It’s goal is to help support commerce and the movement of hay, while guarding against the further spread of the imported fire ant. Select [here](#) to open the industry alert.

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	1.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.1250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Colorado Farm Service Agency
State Committee
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James H Hume, Member
Paul A Mailander, Member
Armando Valdez, Member
William "Bill" W Warren, Member
Trudy Kareus, State Executive Director