



## Colorado

State – Wide  
December 2012

**Trudy Kareus**  
State Executive Director

USDA Farm Service Agency  
Colorado State Office  
Denver Federal Center  
Building 56 Room 2760  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Ph- 720-544-2876  
Fax - 720-544-2966

### Dates to Remember

February 1, 2013 – NAP  
Sales Closing Date for  
Onions, Scallions and  
Shallots

March 15, 2013 – NAP  
Sales Closing Date for  
Spring Seeded and Annual  
Forage Crops

### Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA has a program to assist 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
- Except for operating loan assistance, does not own farm acreage in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups.

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 a group.

### 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>.



### **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.

### **ACRE PARTICIPANTS – SUBMIT 2012 PRODUCTION EVIDENCE**

Participants in the 2012 ACRE program are encouraged to submit production reports now to their local FSA Office. Although the final calculation of ACRE revenue payments will not occur until the end of the marketing year in the fall of 2013, production reports may be submitted now while the information is readily available and before the busy 2013 cropping season begins. The final date to submit 2012 production reports is July 15, 2013.

### **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 Form 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.

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**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. Its 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.

**SIGN-UP FOR GOVDELIVERY – ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF FSA INFORMATION**

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>.

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DROUGHT SURVEY**

As you are well aware, Colorado is experiencing a significant drought. It is known that many producers are severely affected; however, the full impact of the drought on Colorado agriculture is unknown. To better understand these impacts, Colorado State University is conducting a survey called “Telling the Story – Drought in Colorado.” The goal is to summarize survey results in a written document as well as in presentations to the public. This effort is intended to tell the story of the drought and help farmers and ranchers prepare for the future. The link to the survey is <http://tinyurl.com/CSU-drought>

Your participation in this research is voluntary and there are no known risks associated with completing this Internet survey. CSU is taking careful measures to protect your privacy. Your response is anonymous. Individual responses cannot and will not be tracked. Average Responses will be published as findings; individual responses will not be singled out.

**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 December 2012 (Interest rates are subject to change)	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.125%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.1250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

<p><b>Colorado Farm Service Agency</b> 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</p>
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