

May 2014



- [GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed bug](#)
- [Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway](#)
- [2014 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss](#)
- [2013 NAP Production Evidence & Application for Payment Deadline is July 15](#)
- [Payment Eligibility & Limitations under 2014 Farm Bill](#)
- [2014 FSA Acreage Reporting/Certification Deadlines](#)
- [Report Changes in Farming Operation](#)
- [Farm Loan Program Availability](#)
- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)

Colorado FSA: May 2014 enewsletter

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GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden. Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug. You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA county office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

- LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by **January 30, 2015**.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by **January 30, 2015**.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by **August 1, 2014**. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by **November 1, 2014**.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA county office to apply for these programs

2014 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

Producers with a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy should file a notice of loss, within 15 calendar days after the damaging weather event or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date, if they believe their crops have suffered a yield loss. In addition, if a producer is going to abandon or change their original intended use of 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. Contact your local [FSA office](#) with any questions.

2013 NAP Production Evidence & Application for Payment Deadline is July 15

If you had 2013 NAP Coverage, you must provide acceptable production evidence by the subsequent year's acreage reporting date to calculate the approved yield for the NAP unit. When you make your appointment to report your 2014 acreages to FSA, take your 2013 NAP production evidence for NAP crops with you to the FSA office. The deadline to submit 2013 production evidence to update the approved yield is July 15, 2014. If you suffered a loss in 2013 and filed a Notice of Loss under NAP, the deadline to file an application for payment for 2013 losses is also July 15, 2014.

Payment Eligibility & Limitations under 2014 Farm Bill

The 2014 Farm Bill includes payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions applicable for receiving payments and benefits under programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The majority of the rules and

requirements effective for previous years' program payments and benefits are applicable to recipients of program payments and benefits under the 2014 Farm Bill. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to individual and legal entity.

The average AGI limitations were simplified. Effective for 2014, individuals and legal entities applying for payment directly or indirectly (as a member of an entity) **must** have an average AGI of \$900,000 or less for the receipt of commodity, price support and disaster assistance program payment and benefits. Effective for 2015, the same average AGI limitation applies to the recipients of payments and benefits from most conservation programs. The definitions for determining AGI for individuals and legal entities and the corresponding 3-year periods for the determination of average AGI remain unchanged. Eligibility will be calculated based on an average of the AGI for the three years preceding the most recently complete tax year. For example, if certifying compliance for the 2014 year, eligibility is based on an average of the Adjusted Gross Income for 2010, 2011, and 2012 tax years.

Payment Limitations

A maximum dollar amount that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, under various programs by an individual or legal entity is established by statute. Such limitations on payments are controlled by direct attribution. For the purposes of the direct attribution of payments, ownership interest that a person or legal entity holds in a legal entity on June 1 of the current year is used.

Direct attribution means that program payments made:

- directly or indirectly to an individual are combined with the pro rata interest held in any legal entity that received payment, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the individual.
- directly to a legal entity are attributed to those individuals that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the individual.

For more information, please contact your local [FSA Office](#).

2014 FSA Acreage Reporting/Certification Deadlines

Producers are reminded to file their acreage reports/crop certification by the deadline of :

- **June 15, 2014:** onions
- **July 15, 2014:** all other crops
- **November 15, 2014:** apiculture, PRF, fall seeded small grains (For crop year 2015)

Any crop reported after the applicable deadline for the crop will be considered late-filed. Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA county office for an appointment to complete your 2014 acreage report.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

Report Changes in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property, or a copy of your lease for leased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office about a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Farm Loan Program Availability

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agricultural production. As a farmer or rancher, whether you are just starting out or have many years of experience, loans are available for farm operating purposes and/or to purchase or improve a farm or ranch. All qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs. As the "Lender of First Opportunity" FSA targets some of the direct and guaranteed loan funds for beginning and/or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. For purposes of this program, a beginning farmer/rancher is defined as someone who started in farming or ranching less than 10 years ago; socially disadvantaged individuals 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.

For questions regarding Farm Loans, please contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

Important Dates and Deadlines

- April 15 - Signup Began for FSA Disaster Programs (LIP, LFP, ELAP and TAP)
- May 5 - First day soybean producers may request for a Soybean Referendum Form (AO-1595)
- May 26 - USDA Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day, a federal holiday
- May 30 - Deadline for soybean producers to submit a Soybean Referendum Form (postmarked by this date)
- June 2 - Deadline to Request Commodity Loans
- June 15 - 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for onions
- July 15 - 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, all other spring seeded crops and any crops not previously reported.
- July 15 - 2013 Crop Year NAP Production Reporting Deadline & NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- July 15 - 2013 Crop Year ACRE Production Report Deadline

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).