



In This Issue:

- [Message from the FSA State Director](#)
- [Message from the NRCS State Conservationist](#)
- [Important Dates & Deadlines](#)
- [USDA Reminds South Dakota Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports](#)
- [Update Your Records](#)
- [File a Notice of Loss for Failed and Prevented Planted Acres](#)
- [Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans](#)
- [Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
- [USDA Reminds Producers of Climate-Smart Opportunities Using Farm Loan Programs](#)
- [The Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Is Now Available for All 50](#)
- [USDA Hosts Informational Workshops on Newly Expanded Nursery Insurance Option](#)

Message from the FSA State Director

Greetings from the South Dakota State FSA Office!

With less than average snow falls this past winter many in South Dakota were thinking we would be facing a very early planting season with less than adequate moisture to get the crops started. That certainly has changed the past four weeks, according to the recent [US Drought Monitor](#) map nearly 90% of the state has no drought conditions, with a sliver of the extreme western edge of the state that is listed as abnormally dry to moderate drought.

With this month being “Beef Month,” I want to thank the 11,000 farm and ranch families in South Dakota that are raising beef cattle. As a former beef guy myself, I truly understand what work and patience it takes to get a calf to market either as feeder or a fat. There is never a down time!

A phrase that used to get mentioned quite often is that “FSA doesn’t do anything for the livestock guy, it’s all about crop farmers.” That may have been the case years ago, but recent Farm Bills have included programs to positively impact livestock producers. The most notable programs geared towards assisting livestock producers is during times of weather-related events ranging from excessive snow; extreme cold; and drought conditions.

Just in the last two years South Dakota FSA has administered [LFP](#); [LIP](#); [ELAP](#); [DMC](#); [CRP Emergency Haying & Grazing](#); and [ECP](#), all programs geared towards livestock families. These are in addition to the [Farm Storage Facility Loan](#) program and the various [FSA Farm Loans](#) that are also available for livestock producers to utilize.

With planters and seeders rolling please remember to get into your local FSA office to get your acreage certified as soon as you are done planting. If you plant a crop or graze livestock you need to have your acres certified by July 15, 2024.

Lastly, I want to give a special thanks to Bill Becker, the CED in in the Spink County office. Bill celebrates his 40th year of service to farm families in Spink County!

Please be safe during the planting and branding season!

Sincerely,

Steve Dick
State Executive Director
USDA-Farm Service Agency

Message from the NRCS State Conservationist

Greetings,

Our NRCS staff are currently busy completing financial agreements with private landowners and producers for conservation activities. These agreements help keep working lands working and boost rural economies. [Historically underserved producers](#) such as beginning farmers, those who are a member of a group that has been subject to racial prejudice, low-income producers, and others are eligible for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) priority funding considerations, higher payment rates, and advanced payments. These [provisions](#) help ensure all working lands, all producers, and all our South Dakota communities benefit from NRCS programs. Almost 40% of our 2023 EQIP funds (over \$12 million) are directly assisting historically underserved producers. I ask that our partners and existing NRCS customers encourage all producers, regardless of size or location or race, to visit their local NRCS office.

Entities submitting proposals for the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) are due July 2. This year the NRCS is offering formal [proposal application assistance](#) to Tribes, Tribal colleges, community based organizations and others representing underserved communities on a first come first served basis. Review the links and contact Matt Morlock, RCPP Coordinator in South Dakota at Matthew.Morlock@usda.gov with additional questions.

Thank you to all South Dakota farmers, ranchers, land managers, landowners and conservation partners who are moving the needle of conservation in our state.

Sincerely,

Tony Sunseri
State Conservationist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Important Dates & Deadlines

May 31, 2024 - Final loan availability date for the 2023 crops of : Corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower, chickpeas, soybeans, sunflowers

July 2, 2024 - Deadline for entities to apply for NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program via [application website](#)

July 15, 2024 - 2023 ARC-IC Production Certification Deadline

July 15, 2024 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2024 Crop Year spring-seeded crops, perennial forage & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage

USDA Reminds South Dakota Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers in South Dakota who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after planting should make an appointment with their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to File a Report

The Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2024 Crop Year Spring Planted Crops, Perennial Forage and CRP is July 15, 2024 for all South Dakota Counties.

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the 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 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 crops are covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, acreage reports should be submitted by the applicable state, county, or crop-specific reporting deadline or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to because of a natural disaster.

Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with FSA at the local USDA Service Center for more information on continuous certification.

New Option to View, Print and Label Maps on Farmers.gov

Producers with an eAuth account linked to their USDA customer record can now access their FSA farm records, maps and common land units by logging into farmers.gov. A new feature will allow producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries. This will allow producers to view, print and label their own maps for acreage reporting purposes.

Producers who have authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via form FSA-211 Power of Attorney, Business Partner Signature Authority, along with other signature types, or as a member of a business can now access information in the farmers.gov portal.

Producers can learn how to use the farmers.gov Farm Records Mapping functionality with this [fact sheet](#) and these [video tutorials](#).

More Information

Producers can make an appointment to report acres by contacting their local USDA Service Center.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902.

To update your records, contact your local county USDA Service Center.

File a Notice of Loss for Failed and Prevented Planted Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds you to report prevented planted and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

You should report crop acreage you intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If you're unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, if you have failed acres, you should also use form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

For hand-harvested crops and certain perishables, you must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative county office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a *CCC-576*, email, fax or phone. If you notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the *CCC-576*, you are still required to file a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. You must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

To file a *Notice of Loss*, contact your local county USDA Service Center.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers 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 average size farm.

For more information contact, contact your local county USDA Service Center.

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your local county USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

USDA Reminds Producers of Climate-Smart Opportunities Using Farm Loan Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that Farm Loan Programs can be used to support a variety of climate-smart agriculture practices, which build on many practices that farmers and ranchers already use, like cover cropping, nutrient management and conservation tillage.

Climate-smart agricultural practices generate significant environmental benefits by capturing and sequestering carbon, improving water management, restoring soil health and more. Farm loan funding complements other tools to help producers adopt climate-smart practices, such as FSA's [Conservation Reserve Program](#), [crop insurance options](#) that support conservation, and [conservation programs](#) offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

FSA offers [multiple types of loans](#) to help farmers and ranchers start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. These loans can provide the capital needed to invest in climate-smart practices and equipment including the establishment of rotational grazing systems, precision agriculture equipment or machinery for conversion to no-till residue management. Additionally, for programs like Conservation Reserve Program and NRCS conservation programs where USDA and the producer share the implementation cost, a farm loan could be used for the producer's share, if consistent with the authorized loan purpose.

Some additional ways farm loans can be leveraged to invest in climate-smart agriculture practices or equipment include:

- **Precision Agriculture Equipment** - Eligible producers could use a Term Operating Loan to purchase equipment like GPS globes, monitors, or strip till fertilizer equipment.
- **Cover Crops** - Eligible producers could use an Annual Operating Loan for seed costs.
- **No/Reduced Till** - Eligible producers could use a Term Operating Loan to purchase equipment.

- **Livestock Facility Air Scrubber or Waste Treatment** - Eligible producers could use a Farm Ownership Loan for capital improvements to livestock facilities.
- **Cross Fencing** - Eligible producers could use an Annual or Term Operating Loan to purchase fencing and installation equipment.

Visit the [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry webpage on farmers.gov](#) to learn more and see detailed examples of how an FSA farm loan can support climate-smart agriculture practices.

The Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Is Now Available for All 50

We're excited to share that the [farmers.gov local dashboard](#), a dashboard of farming data and USDA resources for your state and county, is now available for all 50 states!

Why We Created the Dashboard

We created the farmers.gov local dashboard to provide farmer-focused data sets and resources from USDA and other government agencies in a single place so you can easily access materials that you may need as you run your farm operation. We also transformed some of the complex data sets into easy-to-read charts and graphs to help you quickly find and analyze information that matters to you.

Dashboard Features

Like the other states, the additional state dashboards include:

- **Commodity Prices.** View daily or weekly commodity prices and trends in prices over time to make data-driven business decisions with data provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Corn and soybean data is available for Indiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota. Corn and wheat pricing is available for Kansas. Whole chicken and chicken parts data is available for Alaska, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.
- **Weather Forecast.** View local current, upcoming, and severe weather information to plan and prepare for weather conditions that may impact your operation with data from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- **Historical Climate Data.** View historical temperature and precipitation data to analyze weather patterns over time with data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).
- **Past Storm Events.** View past storm events data from the NOAA NCEI storm events database to be aware of storm events that may occur in your area during certain time periods or use as a reference when applying for crop insurance from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or USDA disaster assistance programs.
- **USDA Service Centers.** View your local USDA service center contact information to connect with FSA, NRCS, or Rural Development (RD) staff for your business needs.
- **Additional State Resources.** View additional resources, like your county's drought data from the U.S. drought monitor, contact information for your state's beginning farmer and rancher coordinator or state agency offices, and state GovDelivery subscription.

What's Next

Over the past year, we received and reviewed all of your feedback on how to expand and improve the dashboard. Based on your responses, we're planning new features and updates to the dashboard to better

meet your needs. We've also made a number of fixes and adjustments to the existing features as a result of your feedback.

Improving the dashboard is an ongoing effort, so your continued feedback is welcomed and appreciated. Explore the [farmers.gov local dashboard](#) and [let us know what you think!](#)

[Subscribe to the farmers.gov email list](#) to get updates on the latest news from farmers.gov, including information about updates to the dashboard.

USDA Hosts Informational Workshops on Newly Expanded Nursery Insurance Option

USDA has [expanded its Nursery Value Select \(NVS\) crop insurance](#) program to all counties in all states, and the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) is encouraging interested nursery producers to learn more about the program through upcoming informational workshops. These sessions will be valuable for producers in the newly expanded areas and especially for the Nursery Field Grown and Container (FG&C) crop insurance program, which ends beginning with the 2026 crop year.

Nursery Value Select is a pilot program that enables nursery producers to select the dollar amount of coverage that best fits their risk management needs. Its expansion is part of RMA's efforts to provide insurance options for a broader group of producers, including specialty crop producers.

There is one more Nursery Value Select workshop on **July 18**. [See more details here](#).

RMA has administered the Nursery FG&C crop insurance program for nearly 30 years. However, the program relies on a partnership between RMA and a private contractor to update and maintain the Eligible Plant List and Plant Price Schedule and associated software packages. The private contractor will be closing after providing all necessary contractual obligations for the 2025 crop year. Without access to the price schedule and associated software, the Nursery FG&C program will no longer be available to nursery producers beginning with the 2026 crop year.

Nursery Value Select will be able to offer comparable but improved risk management options for those who currently have coverage with the Nursery FG&C program, making RMA's informational workshops a valuable opportunity to learn more about Nursery Value Select and any required transitions.

Prior to the expansion, Nursery Value Select was only available in select counties in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. Beginning with the 2025 crop year, Nursery Value Select **will be available in all counties in all states**. The sales closing date for the 2025 crop year is May 1, 2024, or Sept. 1, 2024, as provided in the actuarial documents.

Nursery Value Select was first available in the 2021 crop year, and producers insured more than \$460 million in liabilities in crop year 2023.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [rma.usda.gov](#) or by contacting their [RMA Regional Office](#).



USDA in South Dakota

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