



Farm Service Agency

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ARTHUR L. TRIPP, JR.

Thank you for what you do to feed and support our communities. Since our last newsletter, our agency has been hard at work to ensure that you have access to our federal programs and resources. We



have established new mechanisms to enhance our customer service, announced innovative initiatives such as a direct loan online payment option, and hosted and attended many events across our state to share our robust resources.

Georgia's Farm Service Agency is here to help you succeed. I highly encourage you to visit your local USDA Service Center to learn more about our farm programs, loans, and other resources that may assist you in meeting your operational goals. If we can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact our office. Please email [GAFeedback@usda.gov](mailto:GAFeedback@usda.gov) or call my office to share your feedback regarding your experience with our agency. At the Farm Service Agency, service may be our middle name, but it is our first priority.

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Please contact your local FSA County Office for more information.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) PROGRAMS IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES

### Acreage Reports

Each producer who expects to receive benefits under FSA Programs is responsible for complying with every provision of the program, including accurate acreage reports and production evidence when required.

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

A type of crop insurance that provides financial assistance to producers of crops that are not insurable through Federal Crop Insurance, to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses or prevents crop planting.

### Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

### Violations under CRP Contract Period

This is a reminder for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants that land enrolled in the CRP program must follow the terms and conditions applicable to the signed contract. Any violations such as, but not limited to harvesting of trees, selling of land without a successor-in-interest to the contract, enrolling into other Federal conservation programs, and so forth will result in the termination of the contract and the participant being required to refund all CRP rental payments, cost share payments, incentive payments, interest and liquidated damages.

Please contact your local FSA County Office if you have any questions regarding permitted and/or restricted activities on your CRP land.

### Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, the request will be denied. Although there are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies, it's important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions.

Applications cannot be approved until FSA has copies of all permits and plans. Contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

DEADLINE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION   COMMODITY
May 15	Acreage Reports	Sweet Corn (planted 8/26-5/15), Tobacco, Tomatoes (planted 8/16-4/5)
July 1	NAP	Cabbage (Zone 3)
July 15	Acreage Reports	All other crops, Perennial Forage

## FACTS BY THE NUMBERS

- Georgia has a total of 4,531 active CRP contracts consisting of 149,807 contract acres.
- Nationally, the current total acres enrolled in CRP is 24.8 million acres.

## Did you know?

You can stay connected with USDA by signing up for free email and text message alerts at [www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/stay-connected!](http://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/stay-connected!)

## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS (FLP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that most farm loan borrowers can make payments to their direct loans online through the Pay My Loan feature on [Farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov). Pay My Loan is part of a broader effort by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline its processes, especially for producers who may have limited time during the planting or harvest seasons to visit a local FSA office; modernize and improve customer service; provide additional customer self-service tools; and expand credit access to assist more producers.

On average, local USDA Service Centers process more than 215,000 farm loan payments each year. Pay My Loan gives most borrowers an online repayment option and relieves them from needing to call, mail, or visit a Service Center to pay their loan installment. Farm loan payments can now be made at the borrower's convenience,

on their schedule and outside of FSA office hours.

Pay My Loan also provides time savings for FSA's farm loan employees by minimizing manual payment processing activities. This new service for producers means that farm loan employees will have more time to focus on reviewing and processing new loans or servicing requests. The Pay My Loan feature can be accessed at [Farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov). To use the payment feature, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a [USDA Level 2 eAuthentication \("eAuth"\) account or a Login.gov account](#). This initial release only allows borrowers operating as individuals to make online payments. For now, borrowers with jointly payable checks will need to continue to make loan payments through their local office.

### Apply to Work with the USDA!

Are you interested in applying for a federal job with the USDA? By working for the federal government, you can make a difference in the lives and futures of Americans, and impact people around the world. Visit [www.usajobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) or scan the QR code to apply!

