

April 2016



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## Washington FSA Newsletter

- [Current Records Key to Program Eligibility](#)
- [Certifying Crop Acres to Meet Program Requirements](#)
- [Reporting Prevented Planting and Failed Acres](#)
- [Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income \(AGI\) Certifications](#)
- [Youth Loans Can Finance 4-H, FFA Projects](#)
- [Program Encourages Land Transition to Beginning and Traditionally Underserved Farmers](#)
- [Highly Erodible Land Eligible for Non-Competitive CRP Acceptance](#)
- [FSA Guaranteed Loans Expand Options for Lenders and Farmers](#)
- [USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs](#)
- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)

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### Washington Farm Service Agency

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)

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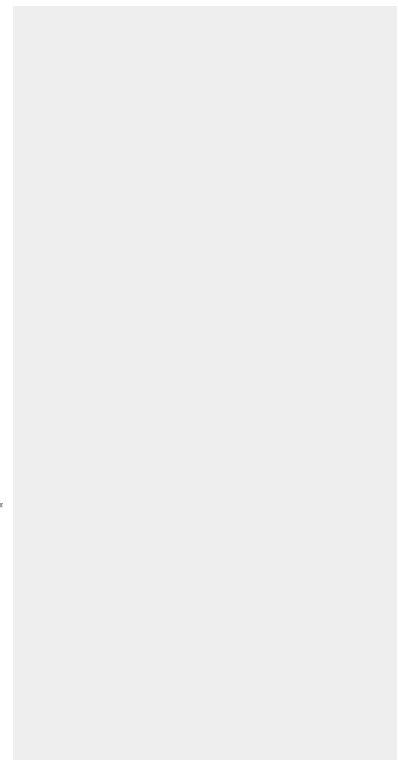
### Current Records Key to Program Eligibility

The Farm Service Agency maintains records for your farm that determine your eligibility for various programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and FSA. Therefore, accurate records are extremely important. Please be sure to contact your [local FSA office](#) with any changes to your farming operation. Changes may include: entity members, names changes, deaths, land use, ownership, new land, land no longer used, etc.

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### Certifying Crop Acres to Meet Program Requirements

As you seed your spring crops, remember to certify acreage for those crops at your [local FSA office](#). The deadline for spring-seeded crops and



Mike Mykines, Loans

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county.

Conservation Reserve Program acres is **July 15, 2016**. Make your appointment in advance so you don't miss this deadline that could affect your payments.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of payments for a variety of programs (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or NAP; Tree Assistance Program or TAP; and Agriculture Risk Coverage and Individual Risk Coverage or ARC-IC).

You may report your acreage to your [local FSA office](#) any time after planting but no later than the acreage reporting deadline for your specific crop. A late filed report requires paying a measurement fee.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If you acquire additional acreage after the applicable 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 15.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. All 2016 crop dates are listed on the Washington FSA [website](#).

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

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## Reporting Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

If weather conditions or a natural disaster have prevented you from planting or have caused a crop failure, you still need to report your acreage to retain FSA program eligibility. 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 Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If you are 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.

If you have failed acres, you should also use form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured 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. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for more information or to schedule an appointment to file a Notice of Loss.

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## Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

The 2014 Farm Bill restricts payments for most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service to producers meeting an average adjusted gross income (AGI) limit. All persons and legal entities requesting certain program payments, either directly or indirectly, are subject to the average AGI limitation provision.

Eligibility is determined based on your average AGI for the three taxable years preceding the most current complete taxable year for which payments were requested. The AGI limit of \$900,000 cannot be exceeded to receive program payments for the following programs:

- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
- FSA disaster programs (ELAP, LFP, LIP, NAP, TAP)
- Marketing Loan gains and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program
- Farmable Wetlands Program
- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

Participants in programs subject to average AGI rules must annually certify your eligibility to receive program benefits. The Internal Revenue Service requires written consent from you to provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture verification of your certification of compliance with average AGI limitation provisions. Such annual average AGI certification and written consent are accomplished by completion of form CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. Contact your [local FSA office](#) to certify, or if you have questions.

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## Youth Loans Can Finance 4-H, FFA Projects

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact your [local FSA office](#) for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Program Encourages Land Transition to Beginning and Traditionally Underserved Farmers

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) financially assists with the changeover of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or traditionally underserved farmer or rancher. The program is used to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. Washington FSA received an additional \$600,000 in funding for the program and is currently accepting applications.

Retired or retiring owners or operators participating in TIP may receive up to two additional annual rental payments after your CRP contract expires, provided the beginning or traditionally underserved farmer or rancher is not a family member.

TIP funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis until the total funds authorized for the program are exhausted. Beginning (including veteran) and traditionally underserved producers or retired and retiring CRP participants may apply. The Farm Service Agency is accepting applications for land in contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2016.

FSA has a national website section to connect retired or retiring land owners or operators with beginning or traditionally underserved farmers or ranchers who are interested in the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). The section is [CRP TIP-Net](#).

Contact your [local FSA office](#) if you are interested in the program.

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## Highly Erodible Land Eligible for Non-Competitive CRP Acceptance

Washington has received an additional 10,300 acres for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Highly Erodible Initiative. This initiative allows producers to non-competitively enter land with an Erosion Index of 20 or greater into CRP.

An Erosion Index of 20 means, on average, this land has the potential to erode at 20 tons of soil per acre per year. Producers may sign a CRP contract with the Farm Service Agency at any time under this new provision and not have to wait for a general signup period. This type of signup is called Continuous CRP. Enrollment will be approved on a first come, first served basis.

CRP allows agricultural producers to enroll land in 10 to 15-year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for voluntarily managing the land for environmental benefits, you receive annual rental payments and up to 50 percent of the cost to establish approved practices.

As with the general CRP, eligibility is based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. One new restriction for the initiative is offered acres need to be "new land" not expiring CRP. Contact your [local FSA office](#) if you are interested in the CRP Highly Erodible Land Initiative.

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## FSA Guaranteed Loans Expand Options for Lenders and Farmers

When crop or livestock prices drop, financing your operation can become challenging. Through the Guaranteed Farm Loan Program, the Farm Service Agency partners with local lenders to increase financing options. An FSA guarantee allows lenders to do some things that they might not consider such as longer term loans and refinancing of some debt along with lines of credit.

Under a guaranteed loan, a commercial lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases. In certain limited circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available. FSA has the responsibility of approving all eligible loan guarantees and providing oversight of lenders' activities. Learn more about FSA guaranteed loans or FSA approved lenders for the loan guarantees, contact your [local FSA office](#).

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## USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack established the first ever USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs in February 2014 at seven locations around the country to provide more information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on the increasing risks of fires, pests, floods, and droughts associated with a changing climate. For general information on Climate Hubs, visit <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA%20Regional%20Hubs%20for%20Risk%20Adaptation%20and%20Mitigation%20to%20Climate%20Change%202015.pdf>. For information on the Climate Hub in your Region, visit <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov> and Click on the region to learn more.

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

**April 1 - July 1** - The primary nesting season for Washington. During this time period, prior approval of the County Committee is required to spot treat weeds by mowing, burning, or spraying after the stand is established.

**April 15** - Deadline to request change of administrative county for Agriculture Risk Coverage County (ARC-CO) program.

**June 1, 2016** - Deadline to request a commodity marketing assistance loan (MAL) or loan deficiency payment (LDP) for 2014 harvested crops of corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, rice, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seeds.

**June 1, 2016** - Deadline to certify conservation compliance to remain eligible for crop insurance subsidy.

For previous issues of the FSA Washington newsletter and a list of annual program **reminders**, check the [newsletter page](#) on the FSA Washington website.

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