

May 2014



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed bug](#)
- [Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway](#)
- [2014 CRP Managed Haying and Grazing](#)
- [2014 FSA Acreage Reporting/Certification Deadlines](#)
- [2014 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss](#)
- [2013 NAP Production Evidence & Application for Payment Deadline is July 15](#)
- [Payment Eligibility & Limitations under 2014 Farm Bill](#)
- [Report Changes in Farming Operation](#)
- [Farm Loan Program Availability](#)
- [Providing Information to Crop Insurance Companies and Agents](#)
- [Foreign Buyers Notification \(AFIDA\)](#)
- [June 1st Signup Deadline for USDA-NRCS Programs](#)
- [Important FSA Dates and Deadlines:](#)

MONTANA FSA: May 2014 eNewsletter

USDA Montana Farm Service Agency

P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone: 406-587-6872

Fax: 885.546.0264

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

State Executive Director:

Bruce Nelson

State Committee:

Steve Carney
Kelly Flaherty-Settle
Floyd Dahlman
Patricia Quisno
Hans McPherson

Montana FSA Directories:

[*Click here for online directory of Montana FSA county offices.](#)
&

[*Click here for a pdf of the Montana FSA State & County Office Directory](#)

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,

Reasonable Accommodations:

People with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact the County Executive Director in the FSA Office in your area or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Alternatively, you may also contact Montana FSA Civil Rights Coordinator Jennifer Cole at (406) 587-6786 or jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov.

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**.

2012 and 2013 LFP - Montana Counties: Eligible Montana Counties are those that were rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as at least D2 (severe drought) through D4 (exceptional drought) for a period of time during the normal grazing period.

2012: For 2012 LFP, eligible producers who own or lease grazing land or pastureland physically located in the following 27 Montana counties may apply: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Custer, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Powder River, Rosebud, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

2013: For 2013 LFP, ten (10) eligible drought counties include: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Silver Bow, Stillwater and Yellowstone.

MONTANA LFP MAP: A Montana map of eligible LFP counties for 2012 and 2013 is available here: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Image/mt-lfp-2012-2013.jpg (JPG) or here http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mt-lfp-2012-2013-map.pdf (PDF).

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 CRP Managed Haying and Grazing

Spring Managed Grazing - Livestock must be removed from CRP by May 14th!

Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing Season: May 15 to July 15th

The 2014 Spring Managed Grazing Period is **March 15th - May 14th**. Livestock must be removed when the calculated AUMs have been utilized but no later than May 14th. Summer/Fall Managed Haying and Grazing begins July 16th following the Primary Nesting and Broodrearing Season. Producers are reminded to sign up at their local FSA office and complete a CRP-117 form for county office approval BEFORE conducting any managed haying and/or grazing activity.

2014 FSA Acreage Reporting/Certification Deadlines

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

- **November 15, 2013:** Perennial Forage (alfalfa or grass hay), Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage , Native and Tame Pasture, Apiculture and all Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **January 15, 2014** – Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Cherries
- **July 15, 2014:** for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, CRP, all other spring seeded crops and any crops not previously reported.

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 calendars 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.

2014 Crop – NAP Notice of Loss

Producers with a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy should file a notice of loss 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 the 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.

This table contains the annual payment limitations for an individual or legal entity for programs that are subject to the provisions of the 2014 Act.

Program Payment Type	Annual Limitation, Unless Otherwise Noted, 2014 Through 2018
Commodity and Price Support Programs	
ARC, PLC, LDP, and MLG payments for other than	\$125,000
ARC, PLC, LDP, and MLG payments for peanuts	\$125,000
Transition assistance for producers of upland cotton	\$40,000 <u>1/</u>
Conservation Programs	
AMA	\$50,000 <u>2/</u>
CRP annual rental payment and incentive payment	\$50,000 <u>3/</u>
CSP	\$200,000 <u>4/</u>
ECP (per disaster event)	\$200,000
EFRP (per disaster event)	\$500,000
EQIP	\$450,000 <u>5/</u>
Disaster Assistance Programs	
ELAP, LFP, LIP	\$125,000 <u>6/</u>
NAP	\$125,000
TAP	\$125,000
Other Programs	
TAAF	\$10,000

- 1/ Transition assistance for producers of upland cotton is only available in the 2014 and 2015 program years.
- 2/ The \$50,000 limitation is the total limit that a participant may receive under the AMA program in any FY.
- 3/ CRP contracts approved before October 1, 2008, may exceed the limitation, subject to payment limitation rules in effect on the date of contract approval.
- 4/ The \$200,000 limitation is the total limit under all CSP contracts entered into subsequent to the enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill during FY's 2014 through 2018.
- 5/ The \$450,000 limitation is the total limit under all EQIP contracts entered into subsequent to the enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill during FY's 2014 through 2018.
- 6/ Total payments received under ELAP, LFP, and LIP may not exceed \$125,000. A separate limitation applies to TAP payments.

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.

Providing Information to Crop Insurance Companies & Agents

FSA will now provide copies of the FSA-578 producer acreage report (print and maps) at no cost to crop insurance companies and agents as long as acceptable proof of authorization is received in the county office. FSA will charge for subsequent copies of the FSA-578 at \$.20 per page and \$1 per map.

Foreign Buyers Notification (AFIDA)

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office if you have questions regarding the requirements for filing the FSA-153. [Click HERE for the FSA-153 Form](#) or paste the following link into your browser to download form: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA153.PDF>

June 1st Signup Deadline for USDA-NRCS Programs

The signup deadline for many of the USDA/NRCS programs is June 1, 2014. Although NRCS accepts program applications through the year, the signup deadline is the cutoff for applications to be considered for funding in the coming year. If you are planning on applying conservation practices and would like to be considered for cost share and/easement programs, you will need to submit an application to the local NRCS office before June 1, 2014. These programs can assist agricultural producers improve or enhance their natural resources by installing conservation practices such as livestock water projects, cross fencing, grazing plans, irrigation improvement projects, stream restoration projects, wildlife habitat improvement projects, feedlot improvements, numerous irrigated and dry cropland practices, organic farming conversion, and forest stand improvement. The programs offer numerous incentive payments for improved management practices on forest, crop, and grazing lands. If you have any questions about the conservation programs available through the NRCS, please come in or call your local NRCS office located in a USDA service center.

Important FSA Dates and Deadlines:

- **April 15** - Signup Began for FSA Disaster Programs (LIP, LFP, ELAP and TAP)
- **May 5** - First day soybean producers may request a Soybean Request for Referendum Form (AO-1595) from a local FSA office
- **May 14**: All livestock removed from CRP
- **May 15-July 15**: Primary Nesting and Broodrearing Season
- **May 26**: USDA Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day, a federal holiday
- **May 30**: Deadline for soybean producers to submit a Soybean Request for Referendum Form (or Postmarked by this date)
- **June 2**: Final Loan/LDP Availability Dates for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower, Small chickpeas, Large chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed.
- **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 & 2013 Crop Year NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- **July 15**: 2013 Crop Year ACRE Production Report Deadline
- **July 16**: CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/ Haying Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)

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).