

Deadlines approaching for FSA annual reports

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USDA's Farm Service Agency Reminds Producers to File Annual Report of Acreage to Meet Farm Program Requirements.

Producers are reminded to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office to meet FSA program eligibility requirements.

"Producers must file their reports accurately and timely for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage, to ensure they receive the maximum FSA program benefits possible," said Dan Steinkruger, state executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Nebraska.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and newer programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops planted on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland.

It is also important to accurately report crops' intended use. Intended use is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised once reported, Steinkruger said.

Acreage reports are considered timely filed when completed by the applicable final crop reporting deadlines. In Nebraska deadlines include:

- June 30 for small grains.
- July 15 for all other crops including CRP.
- NAP acreage must be reported by the earlier of the final reporting date or 15 days prior to

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harvest or disposition of the crop.

- Prevented acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.
- Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop.

Producers should contact their county FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

Late-filed provisions may be available to producers who are unable to meet the reporting deadline as required. Reports filed after the established deadline must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.