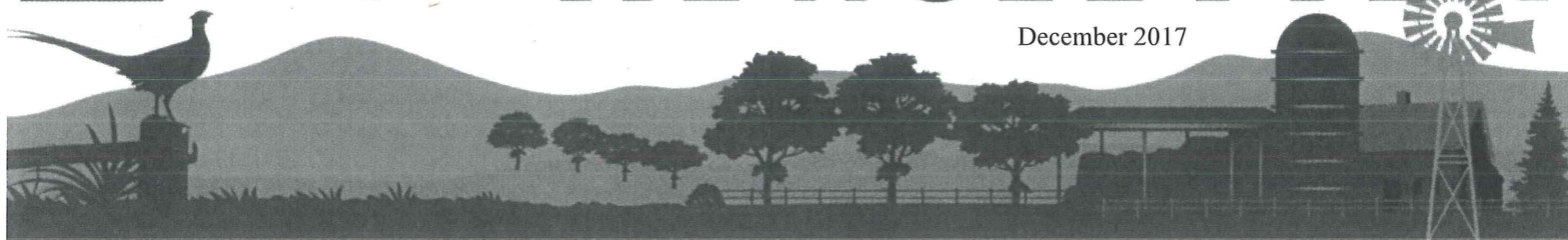




FSA NEWSLETTER

December 2017



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Hours:
 Monday—Friday
 8:00 am—4:30 pm

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Farm Loan Program Manager:
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FSA Office Staff:
 Terry Dalen
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County Committee:
 Vince Elser
 Tim Hemphill
 Roger Overocker

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Mission:
"Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans."

The Dickinson County FSA staff would like to congratulate you on another bountiful crop year.

On behalf of my staff & County FSA Committee, we want to wish you & yours the very best in the coming year and we look forward to serving your Agriculture needs in 2018.

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Marketing Assistance Loans (Sealing) and Loan Deficiency Payments

Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and/or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are available to eligible producers for the 2017 crop year for corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, other oilseeds, wheat, graded and non-graded wool, mohair, and LDPs only on unshorn pelts.

To be eligible for a MAL or LDP, producers:

- must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements
- must submit an acreage report to account for all cropland on all farms
- must have and retain beneficial interest in the commodity until the MAL is settled for
- must meet Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations.
- must have an eligible commodity in storable condition and merchantable for food, feed or other uses
- must have crops that meet specific CCC minimum grade and quality standards for non-recourse MALs.
- must have form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest, control and title to the commodity, in the crop
- remain responsible for any loss in quantity or quality of commodities pledged as collateral.

Dickinson County stored grain loan rates are: Corn \$1.85, Soybeans \$4.90, Oats, \$1.44.

For all loan-eligible commodities, a producer may repay a MAL any time during the loan period at the lesser of the loan rate plus accrued interest and other charges or an alternative loan repayment rate as determined by CCC, known as a Market Loan Gain (MLG).

Producers may obtain MALs or receive LDPs on all or part of their eligible production anytime after harvest until the final loan availability period. The final loan/LDP availability dates for the respective commodities are:

- Jan. 31 - Wool, Mohair and LDP only for Unshorn Pelts
- March 31 - Barley, Honey, Oats, and Wheat
- May 31 - Corn, Grain sorghum, and Soybeans

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain throughout the entire term of the loan.

Enrollment Period for ARC-CO & PLC for 2018

Farmers and ranchers with base acres elected under the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may now sign up to enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will end on August 1, 2018.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in revenues (price & yield) for ARC and price for PLC for covered commodities. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

DIRECT LOANS

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans. Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses.

Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate. Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements. The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

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 farm operation
- 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. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center.

GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95% of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt. Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses. FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,399,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are repaid within seven years and Farm Ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS:

The 2018 FSA County Committee elections resulted in Tim Hemphill of Milford, Iowa being re-elected as FSA County Committeeperson from Local Administrative Area 1 representing Lloyd, Milford, Okoboji, & Westport townships. County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. FSA committeepersons who will serve Dickinson County in 2018 are Vince Elser of Lake Park, Iowa, Tim Hemphill of Milford, Iowa and Roger Overocker of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

THANK YOU:

I have been involved in and with production agriculture my entire life. Since 1978, I have had the pleasure to serve your needs as County Executive Director of your local Farm Service Agency Office. But time waits for no one...Yesterday is HISTORY. Tomorrow is a MYSTERY. Today is a GIFT, and that is why it's called "THE PRESENT"! After nearly four decades of supporting the quality of life in rural NW Iowa, it is with mixed emotions that I am bidding farewell effective December 29, 2017.

I grew up a rural farm kid from a diversified grain & livestock farm near Montgomery Iowa who has never really left the farm nor forgot the needs and values of this area's production agriculture. I knew USDA was where farmers looked when conditions on the farm justified the need for assistance. For the past four decades beginning in 1978, I have enjoyed serving and being a part of the Farm Service Agency's (formerly known as ASC) historic contributions to you local farm owners & farm operators. Agricultural needs addressed in many farm bills and services like Paid Diversions, PIK Certifications, 0/92, Grain Reserve, Set Asides, ACP, Disaster Assistance Programs, Commodity & Facility Loans, CRP, ARC/PLC and many more USDA programs that are of the present and forgotten past. What is not forgotten and more importantly is where I have been so blessed is to have had countless incredible opportunities to work with so many of you serving your individual farming needs through FSA programs and services.

I began my career with hopes and aspirations to try and make a difference in production agriculture which through the years I have grown and learned so much personally and professionally from you farmers and landowners that I have had the opportunity to interact with and serve. Those will be the memories and the life lessons that will always be with me.

*In winter's chill or summer's heat,
a farmer works so the world can eat!
Agriculturally yours,
Larry Lago*

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15	Federal Offices Closed — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 31	Deadline on 2017 LDPs for wool and unshorn lamb pelts.
February 19	Federal Offices Closed — President's Day Holiday
March 15	Crop Insurance & NAP Crops Sales Closing Date
March 31	Final date to apply for oat or wheat loans

**Farm Owners or Operators
interested in learning more about
FSA programs or services
are encouraged to contact our local
FSA office or go online to:
www.fsa.usda.gov**

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).