

February 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

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

- [Alaska FSA State Director News](#)
- [Payment Limitations by Program](#)
- [Farm Reconstitutions](#)
- [Alaska Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines](#)
- [Youth Loans](#)
- [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](#)
- [USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Alaska County Producers](#)

Alaska State FSA Newsletter

Alaska State Farm Service Agency

800 W Evergreen, Ste 216
Palmer, AK 99645
www.fsa.usda.gov/ak

State Executive Director

Bryan J. Scoresby
907-761-7750
Cell: 907-707-4819
Email:
bryan.scoresby@ak.usda.gov

Northern County Office

PO Box 585
Delta Junction, AK 99737

County Executive Director/Farm Loan Manager

Alaska FSA State Director News

A fertilizer plan is another tool for agriculture producers to use in the overall farm management plan. Applying too much fertilizer can be an unnecessary costly expense and has the potential to hinder crop growth. Applying too little keeps the crop from reaching its full potential. A science based fertilizer recommendation, properly applied in the field can maximize crop yield, crop quality and increase profit potential.

I met with Dr. Stephen Brown with the UAF Agriculture Extension Service in Palmer and discussed soil sample techniques in winter. Soil testing can still be done using the Alaska method of putting down a steel fire ring and building a fire to thaw the ground. With the soil thawed a sample can be obtained using proven sampling techniques. With a laboratory analysis and proper fertilizer recommendation for the targeted crop, the correct amount of fertilizer can then be applied.

At my home, I did the above for my vegetable garden. Wood fire in a two separate steel rings in two sample locations over thawed ground. Next day, I used the shovel to gather samples from the two areas to send in for analysis. Test results are now in and Dr. Brown recommended a mostly nitrogen mix of 22-1-1 for my garden.

Lloyd Wilhelm
907-895-4242 ext 150
Fax: 855-711-9095
Email:
lloyd.wilhelm@ak.usda.gov

Southern County Office
800 W Evergreen, Ste 216
Palmer, AK 99645

**County Executive
Director/Farm Loan
Manager**

Erin Sturdivant
907-761-7754
Fax: 907-761-7789
Email:
erin.sturdivant@ak.usda.gov

Hours Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings:
Northern Co TBA
Southern Co March 13, 10 am

Please contact your local FSA
Office for questions specific to
your operation or county.

Without the science based analysis, I was planning to apply about 80 lbs. of 16-16-16 fertilizer and add 50 lbs. of lime to raise the PH. A common assumption is all soils in AK have low PH. The PH in my garden was between 6.3 and 6.9. The \$20.00 spent for lime would have been wasted as lime is not needed on my garden. And, adding lime could have a detrimental effect to micro nutrient availability. Further the cost of 16-16-16 fertilizer is about \$2.00 more for 50 lbs. than a close standard to a 22-1-1 fertilizer. For my vegetable garden, I would have spent about \$24.00 more than necessary without a proper soil test.

Using my savings of \$2.00 per 50# bag and calculating to compare a 100 acre vegetable farm, the annual savings would exceed \$5000. For grain, hay, pasture or any other crop, the fertilizer plan would certainly have different results for fertilizer need and cost saving analysis. An economical calculation can be made comparing what fertilizer you would apply without the soil test and what a science based recommendation would say you need.

I encourage all producers to utilize the services of our USDA partners for science based soil testing and fertilizer recommendations. Our USDA partners can and will assist in the technical analysis to assist you in your management plan. Only then can any of us really know what we have in our soils and add only what is needed to get maximum crop growth.

I find it satisfying to know exactly what fertilizer is currently in my soils. And I can now apply exactly what elements are needed to achieve maximum crop and yield potential. Even more satisfaction comes from knowing that I will be saving money due this extra effort.

Payment Limitations by Program

The 2014 Farm Bill established a maximum dollar amount for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Payment limitations vary by program for 2014 through 2018.

Below is an overview of payment limitations by program.

Commodity and Price Support Programs

The annual limitation for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Loan Gains is \$125,000 total.

Conservation Programs

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment and incentive payment is limited to \$50,000. CRP contracts approved before Oct. 1, 2008, may exceed the limitation, subject to payment limitation rules in effect on the date of contract approval.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has an annual limit of \$200,000 per disaster event. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) has an annual limit of \$500,000 per disaster event.

Disaster Assistance Programs

The annual limitation of \$125,000 applies to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The total payments received under ELAP, LFP and LIP may not exceed \$125,000. A separate limitation of \$125,000 applies to Tree Assistance Program (TAP) payments. There is also a separate \$125,000 payment limit for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

Payment limitations also apply to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Contact your local NRCS office more information.

For more information on FSA payment limitations by program, visit https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2015/payment_eligibility_payment_limitations.pdf.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Alaska Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of March 15th.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in Alaska have a NAP application deadline of March 15, 2018: Spring planted crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser2017/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact your local County FSA office at or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Youth Loans

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.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Alaska is already working on operating loans for spring 2018 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well as expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at your local County FSA office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call the local County office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Alaska County Producers

Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates

Alaska State USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Bryan Scoresby reminds farmers and ranchers in Alaska that they can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text AKDeltaJunction or AKPalmer to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from the Northern and Southern County Offices. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Please contact Lloyd Wilhelm, Northern County Executive Director, at (907) 895-4242, lloyd.wilhelm@ak.usda.gov. or Erin Sturdivant, Southern County Executive Director, at (907) 761-7754 erin.sturdivant@ak.usda.gov if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or text message option.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings and/or events should contact Lloyd Wilhelm, Northern CED, at (907) 895-4242, Erin Sturdivant, Southern CED, at (907) 761-7754 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).

 SHARE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)