“Honey, Can You Stop by the FSA Office for Me?”: What to Expect When Doing Business with the County Farm Service Agency Office
FSA is a farmer-facing agency serving America’s agricultural community. We’re rural America’s engine for economic development.
Whether you are the principal farm/ranch operator, or you are your spouse’s right-hand-woman, it’s important to understand the programs and resources available to you. There are some key things you might be asked to do when you stop by your County FSA Office.
Our primary mission is to help Nebraska farmers and ranchers secure financial assistance through USDA programs by providing accurate, timely and efficient program delivery. ~SED Nancy Johner
Nebraska FSA’s Workforce:
Strategically Located Statewide

400 +
dedicated
staff

71 county
offices
FSA PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

FARM PROGRAMS
- SAFETY NET PROGRAMS
- CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
- DISASTER PROGRAMS

FARM LOANS
- DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS
- GUARANTEED FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS
- DIRECT AND GUARANTEED MICROLOANS
- DIRECT EMERGENCY LOANS
- DIRECT YOUTH LOANS
- GUARANTEED CONSERVATION LOANS
FARM PROGRAMS

Keep farmers farming and lands usable
Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

Provides direct payments to producers who have been negatively impacted by foreign governments imposing tariffs on U.S. agricultural products
SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

ARC/PLC  |  NAP  |  LIP  |  ELAP  |  TAP  |  MPP-Dairy
SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

• ARC/PLC programs provide payments to farmers when the actual revenue for a covered commodity falls below the expected revenue.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs)

• Producers can pledge their commodities and receive a short-term Marketing Assistance Loan to be able to have interim financing during harvest-time market lows.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

• NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.
SAFETY NET PROGRAMS (continued)

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- LIP pays livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality or injury to livestock caused by an eligible adverse weather event or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)
- ELAP pays producers for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to eligible tree growers to replace or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines lost to natural disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires.

Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy)
- MPP-Dairy is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers. It offers protection when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.
FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

- DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS
- GUARANTEED FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS
- DIRECT AND GUARANTEED MICROLOANS
- FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS
- DIRECT YOUTH LOANS

FSA has loan programs and business tools to match your specific needs.
FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Direct Operating Loans
- Used to purchase items such as livestock and feed, seed, farm equipment, fuel, insurance; pay for family living expenses; make minor improvements or repairs to buildings and fencing; and pay for general farm operating expenses. $300,000 loan limit with a maximum 7-year term.

Direct Farm Ownership Loans
- Can be used to purchase or expand a farm or ranch, construct new or improve existing farm or ranch buildings, and pay for soil and water conservation and protection purposes. There is a $300,000 loan limit with a maximum 40-year term.

Microloans
- Can be used by any farmer and rancher. They are especially designed to meet the needs of small and beginning farmers, non-traditional, specialty crop and niche type operations by easeing some requirements and offering less paperwork.
- $50,000 loan limit and maximum 25-year term for purchasing a farm, constructing buildings or making other capital improvements, undertaking soil and water conservation, and operational expenses.
Guaranteed Loans

- Commercial lenders extend credit to family farm operators and owners who do not qualify for standard commercial loans. Farmers receive credit at reasonable terms to finance their current operations or to expand their business; financial institutions receive additional loan business and servicing fees, as well as other benefits from the program, such as protection from loss, up to 95 percent.

Youth Loans

- Can be used by young people ages 10-20 years old who participate in 4-H clubs, FFA or a similar organization, to finance educational, income-producing, agriculture-related projects. $5,000 loan limit with a maximum 7-year term.

Minority & Women Farmers and Ranchers

- FSA supports the full participation of minority and women family farmers in loan programs by targeting a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan funds for minority and women farmers to buy and operate a farm or ranch.
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

These loans provide credit opportunities to eligible family farm and ranch operators and owners who have been in business less than 10 years.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

- Provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce.
- May borrow up to $500,000 per loan, with a minimum down payment of 15 percent.
- Loan terms vary, but can go up to 12 years.
- Eligible commodities list is long.
- Microloan option of $50,000 max with lower down payment.
FSA may be able to provide loan servicing options to direct loan borrowers whose accounts are distressed or delinquent due to circumstances beyond their control.
Whether you are applying for programs for yourself, or dropping in to sign something for your spouse or business partner, FSA staff can help.
THINGS YOU MIGHT BE ASKED TO SIGN OR PICK UP AT FSA

Aerial maps
These are used as part of the acreage certification process. Acreage certification is critical to maintain program eligibility.

FSA-578s
• Report of Commodities - Farm Summary.

FSA-211
• Power of Attorney
**FSA-578**

**REPORT OF COMMODITIES**  
**FARM SUMMARY**

**Kearney, Nebraska**

**FSA - 578 (09-13-16)**

**FARM NUMBER:**

**Operator Name and Address:**

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**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a, as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 715, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub L. 107-171), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub L. 113-79). The information will be used to collect producer certification of the report of acreage of crops/commodities and land use data which is needed in order to determine producer eligibility to participate in and receive benefits under FSA programs. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated) and USDA/FSA-14, Applicant/Borrower. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information may result in denial of the producer's request to participate in and receive benefits under FSA programs. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0556-0175. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer Name</th>
<th>Crop/Commodity</th>
<th>Variety/Type</th>
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<th>Irrigation Practice</th>
<th>Intended Use</th>
<th>Reported Quantity</th>
<th>Determined Quantity</th>
<th>Planting Period</th>
<th>Crop/Commodity</th>
<th>Variety/Type</th>
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**CERTIFICATION:** I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the acreage of crops/commodities and land uses listed herein are true and correct and that all required crops/commodities and land uses have been reported for the farm as applicable. Any report different or contrary prior subsequent certification filed by any producer for any crop for which NAP coverage has been purchased, I certify the applicable crop, type, practice, and intended use is not planted if it is not included on the Report of Commodities for this crop year. The signing of this form gives FSA representatives authorization to enter and inspect crops/commodities and land uses on the above identified land. A signature date (the date the producer signs the FSA-578) will also be captured.

**Operator's Signature (By):**

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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial status, parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, (2) fax: (202) 690-7442, or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
POWER OF ATTORNEY

THE UNDERSIGNED does hereby appoint the following grantee:

(1) __________________________ in the county of: (2) __________________________ in the State of: __________________________

(insert grantor’s name) in connection with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service Agency, or Commodity Credit Corporation programs checked below. NOTE: This power of attorney form is not valid for FSA Farm Loan Program purposes.

A. FSA, NRCS, and CCC PROGRAMS

☐ 1. All current programs.
☐ 2. All current and all future programs.
☐ 3. Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC).
☐ 4. Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).
☐ 5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP).
☐ 6. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).
☐ 7. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).
☐ 8. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP).
☐ 9. Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP).
☐ 10. Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.
☐ 12. Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
☐ 13. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
☐ 14. NRCS Conservation Programs.
☐ 15. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP).
☐ 17. Other (Specify):

B. TRANSACTIONS for FSA, NRCS, and CCC PROGRAMS

☐ 1. All actions.
☐ 2. Signing applications, agreements, and contracts.
☐ 3. Making reports.
☐ 4. Conducting all marketing assistance loan and LDP transactions.
☐ 5. AOS Certification.
☐ 7. Other (Specify):

This form may also be used to grant authority to an attorney-in-fact to act on the grantor’s behalf with respect to FCIC crop insurance policies. Checking any of the FCIC transactions does not have any impact as to the FSA, NRCS or CCC transactions checked above:

C. INSURED CROPS/STATE/COUNTY

(Enter “All” or specify each crop, state, county and year(s))

☐ 1. __________________________
☐ 2. __________________________
☐ 3. __________________________
☐ 4. __________________________

D. CROP INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

☐ 1. All actions.
☐ 2. Making applications for insurance.
☐ 3. Reporting crop acreage and production reports.
☐ 4. Reporting a notice of damage or loss and making claim for indemnity.
☐ 5. Making transfers and cancellations.
☐ 6. Making contract changes.
☐ 7. Other (Specify):

This Power of Attorney is valid in all counties in the United States unless otherwise noted. This power of attorney shall remain in full force and effect until (1) written notice of its revocation has been duly served upon FSA, NRCS or CCC as appropriate; (2) death of the undersigned grantor; or (3) incompetence or incapacitation of the undersigned grantor. The undersigned grantor shall provide
• May sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, effective August 1, 1992, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the County Office.
• Shall not sign FSA-211 on behalf of the other.
• Exception: Spouses may sign on behalf of each other for a husband/wife joint venture with a permanent tax ID number and sole proprietorship, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the County Office.
• Must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes.
Signature Authority for Spouses

- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for a partnership. Individuals that are appointed as an attorney-in-fact for another individual shall not sign for that individual as an authorized signatory for a partnership.

- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for a joint venture.

- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for a corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other similar entity.

- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other’s individual interest in a corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other similar entity; unless a written notification denying a spouse this authority is provided to County Office.
County Office shall not provide Agency records of a producer to that producer’s spouse unless written authority to provide such records has been provided to the County Office.

Example: Joe and Jane Black, husband and wife, may sign documents on behalf of each other because no written notification denying such authority has been provided to the County Office.

Jane Black has requested a copy of Joe Black’s Agency records. County Office shall not provide the records to Jane Black unless Joe Black provides the County Office written authority to release the records to Jane Black.
By the year 2050, the world’s population will number 9.7 billion. That means we will need to double our food production to feed a growing population.
FSA programs support all types and sizes of farming operations, including niche operations, specialty crop, and organic producers.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance

• Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops such as vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, and energy crops.

Microloans

• Microloans also are a viable source for specialty crop producers to obtain credit to help start or expand their operation.
In communities nationwide, USDA and its partners help farmers, ranchers and other producers manage risk and grow their businesses.
“It’s tremendous what USDA has to offer for people like me – a woman farmer and organic producer;”

“A lot of new farms need help. They need to make sure they are growing their product and getting to market, the last thing they want to think about is the financial growth strategy. SCORE can provide tremendous support in that aspect.”

-- Kerry Planck, Alpine Made
GROW WITH US

An interactive resource for farmers, by farmers.

FARMERS.GOV
GovDelivery Bulletins and/or Text Messages
www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

Email Updates
To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Subscription Type
Email

Email Address

Submit    Cancel

Email Updates
To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Subscription Type
SMS/Text Message

Wireless Number
1 (US)

Submit    Cancel

OR

Sign in using your preferred social media account

Facebook    Google    Yahoo!

Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences.

Privacy Policy | Cookie Statement | Help
To find information on USDA jobs: usajobs.gov

To find your local FSA Office: Offices.usda.gov

Questions?