



February 3, 2017

FARM SERVICE AGENCY GIVES UPDATE

This week I had a good talk with Aaron Peithmann who is in charge of the USDA-FSA office in Saline County. There were several things he emphasized that farm operators need to be aware of.

1) It is imperative that farm operators report changes in several areas. This includes, but not limited to, change in operator, change in ownership, sale/purchase of land, creation of a corporation or trust, change of corporation ownership shares, or deceased ownership. If your address has changed, that needs to be reported to his office also. If you have any updates or corrections for your Saline County farm(s), please call FSA at (402) 821-3292 to update your records.

2) If you are a new farm operator purchasing federal crop insurance for the very first time, you must file an AD-1026 form with FSA in order to be eligible for the crop insurance premium subsidy. Basically you will be certifying compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. The form needs to be filed by June 1st of the first year of crop insurance participation in order to remain eligible for the premium subsidy.

3) Now is a great time to call and set up your appointment for the annual FSA Enrollment Period for ARCPLC for 2017. That process is going on now and is only 20% completed in Saline County. Avoiding the busy times in spring planting time is encouraged so call them now for your appointment. Don't forfeit any potential payments if they are earned for this year's crops! Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can now visit FSA county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. Crop shares can change, that needs to be reported too.

4) FSA offers text alerts for the first time. Farmers and ranchers in Nebraska now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone. 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. Notifications will not be sent on a regular basis, but will be sent as needed.

If you have a flip phone that receives text messages that is ok, you don't necessarily need a smart phone to receive these text messages! What you do is text a specific number to subscribe. Instead of a name or regular phone number, send to the following number: 372-669. For the Saline County FSA office, type NESaline for the text message and then send the message. (For other counties, use the text message NEGage or NEJefferson, etc.). If you did this correctly you will immediately get a message that gives you information about the service. You will then be subscribed to the alerts to the specific office you do business with. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.



Wilber Crop Clinic Reminder

“Adapting to Today’s Agricultural Economy” is the main theme for the 2017 Wilber Crop Clinic. We have a wide range of presentation topics and commercial displays that will be featured at this year’s event scheduled for Friday, February 10 at the Sokol Hall in Wilber. The clinic will begin with registration, viewing of sponsor displays, coffee, kolaches, and rolls at 8:00 a.m. The educational program is slated for 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!

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