

Deadlines for Minnesota Farmers to Sign Up for NAP Program

One way farmers can protect themselves against losing all of their income due to bad weather is with the NAP program. The full name of NAP is the **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**. NAP is run by the Farm Service Agency (also called FSA), part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. NAP does not cover all of your financial losses due to natural disaster, but it will replace some of the lost income.

Farmers are **not required** to participate in NAP. It is a voluntary program.

Deadlines for Farms in Minnesota

The deadline to apply for NAP coverage depends upon where you farm and which crop(s) you plan to grow.

In Minnesota, the deadline for most spring-seeded crops (including fresh vegetables) is **March 15, 2012**.

- The deadline for 2013 value-loss crops such as flowers, ginseng, turfgrass sod, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ornamental nursery, and mushrooms is **September 1, 2012**.
- The deadline for small grains, forage crops, winter wheat, rye, barley, fall speltz, and fall mint is **September 30, 2012**.

If This Will Be the First Time You Participate in NAP

If you have not participated in NAP or other federal government farm programs before, you will need to find your local FSA office and schedule an appointment. You can find your local FSA office by contacting the Minnesota State FSA office at (651) 602-7700 or visiting their website at the following address:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing>.



<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/repository/calag/img4903p8.jpg>

At the appointment, your farm will be assigned a farm number. You may want to bring a list of the crops that you intend to grow for 2012.

If You Have Already Participated in NAP

If you have participated in NAP in a previous year, and if you are farming the same land as in the previous year, you may use the same farm number. If you are farming new land, a new farm number is required. If you want to continue coverage on the same crops on the same land, you must simply submit the NAP fee (or request a waiver) by the deadline. However, if you plan to farm new land, add new crops, subtract crops, or change the crop share arrangement, then a new application form is required.



FLAG attorney with farmer at Farm Service Agency office

Fees for NAP

In order to apply for NAP coverage, **most farmers must also pay a fee.** The fee is \$250 per crop, per county, with a maximum of \$750 per county. Thus, if you want to obtain NAP coverage for three (3) or more crops in Dakota County, it would cost \$750. It would cost more to obtain coverage of crops in more than one county.



Keeping accurate sales records is a key part of good farming.

Farmers may request a waiver of the NAP fee if they are “limited resource” farmers.

Whether a person is a “limited resource farmer” depends upon gross agricultural sales in the previous two years and upon total household income. For example, farmers who live in Ramsey County must have had gross agricultural sales below \$163,200 per year for the past two years and a total household income below \$25,159 for 2009 and 2010, OR have a total household income at or below the national poverty level to be considered limited resource farmers. Farmers must certify that they are limited resource farmers each year that they request a waiver of the NAP fee. Farmers may be asked for evidence that they are limited resource farmers.

NAP Reporting Requirements

Farmers participating in NAP must submit acreage reports to FSA that list the acres or row-feet of each crop planted (or prevented from being planted). The reports must be filed by the acreage reporting due date set by FSA. For spring-planted crops, the acreage reporting deadline is July 15. Farmers must also submit final production reports that list the amount of each crop produced no later than July of the next year. Thus, if you applied for NAP for your 2012 vegetables, your acreage report is due July 15, 2012, and your production reports should be submitted to your local FSA office before July 2013. In order to receive the highest level of benefits, it is very important to submit these reports each year, whether or not you had losses.



Keeping records of farm acreage and crops is necessary for FSA assistance programs.



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This project is supported by grants from the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach - Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers; USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program; and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. FLAG is a private nonprofit organization. Although FLAG receives grant funds from government agencies for some projects, such as this, FLAG is not part of any government agency.

