

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.

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 (fresh vegetables) is **March 15, 2011**. The deadline for 2012 value loss crops such as flowers, ginseng, turfgrass sod, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ornamental nursery, and mushrooms is **September 1, 2011**. The deadline for small grains, forage crops, winter wheat, rye, barley, fall speltz, and fall mint is **September 30, 2011**.

If This Will Be the First Time You Participate in NAP

If you have not participated in NAP or other government farm programs before, you will need to find your local FSA office and schedule an appointment. You can find out 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/stateoffapp?mystate=mn&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>. At the appointment, your farm will be assigned a farm number. You may want to bring a list of the crops that are covered by the application deadlines that you intend to grow for 2011.

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 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.

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 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.

Farmers may request a waiver of the 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 \$146,400 per year for the past two years and a total household income below \$26,436 for 2008 and 2009 to be considered limited resource farmers. Farmers must certify that they are limited resource farmers each year in order to qualify for the waiver. Farmers may be asked for evidence that they are limited resource farmers.

NAP Reporting Requirements

Farmers participating in NAP must submit acreage reports that list the acres or row-feet of each crop planted (or prevented from being planted). Farmers must also submit 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 2011 vegetables, your production reports should be submitted to your local FSA office before July 2012. 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.