

# 2020 USDA Dates for the Landowner Calendar

Published on Feb 18, 2020 by Mollie Aronowitz, AFM

When working in farmland, many become quite familiar with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for program enrollment and compliance. USDA is the federal agency that oversees public policy and study on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and nutrition.

In terms of farmland ownership, we tend to focus on two (of the 29) agencies: Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). FSA implements and administers the programs while NRCS helps with the planning and implementation of protecting our natural resources.

There are a handful of dates Peoples Company Land Managers take note of throughout the year. Many landowners who live a distance from their farmland find reassurance in the fact that Land Managers can be their boots on the ground to ensure their best interests are represented in the local FSA and NRCS offices.

For many of the USDA programs, the level of action needed from the landowner depends on the type of tenant contract. If a landowner has a cash rent agreement, he/she is a more passive landowner (in the eyes of the agencies) than a custom or crop share agreement. Landowners who have a more active role in the growing crop have more paperwork to complete.



*PHOTO 1: Each county has a FSA and NRCS office. While there still may be snow on the ground, there are tasks to complete in the next few months in preparation.*

Here are three USDA dates to consider for 2020:

## February 28, 2020 - General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-Up

CRP is a 35-year-old program that removes private lands out of production and into permanent grass/forbes plantings for improved conservation. The various programs within CRP typically focus on reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and addressing wildlife habitat. There is currently a general sign-up and a continuous sign-up, with various stipulations for each. The sign-up deadline for general is February 28 while the continuous is ongoing.

*If landowners are interested in taking marginal ground out of production, they should visit their local FSA office as soon as possible to see what opportunities are available.*

## March 15, 2020 – 2019 ARC/PLC Election and Enrollment

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs as an income support tool that factors in yield and commodity prices. Producers (those defined with an active interest in the crop) must elect which program to use on their farmed acres prior to March 15th. Once the 2019 enrollment contract is signed, producers can also sign the 2020 enrollment contract since elections can not be updated/changed for the 2020 year.

*Non-farming landowners could ask their tenants about the enrollment process and have a general conversation about the deciding factors that went into choosing the election. This is an easy segway into learning more about their tenant's operation and business planning. Open dialogue between landowner and tenant allows opportunity to problem solve and do what's best for each piece of land.*

## July 15, 2020 – 2020 Crop Certification

All insurable crops must be reported in the FSA office on the FSA Form 578: Report of Farm Commodities Farm Summary. This annual certification is the foundation for all other work as it classifies what crop(s) have been planted and their intended use. Eligibility and compliance for programs depends on the numbers reported on this form.

*Non-farming landowners could ask for a copy of the FSA 578 on an annual basis. Peoples Company tenants have an annual reporting requirement that includes this form as well as yield documentation and fertilizer/chemical data.*

FSA - 578 (09-13-16)														PROGRAM YEAR: :				
Farm Number:														DATE: 6-20-2019				
Operator Name and Address														PAGE: 2				
Original RP														Revision:				
Cropped: 145.89														Farmland: 152.42				
<b>NOTE:</b> 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 718, 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 the 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 a denial of the producers 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 0550-0115. 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.																		
Planting Period	Crop/Commodity	Variety/Type	Irr. Prac	Int. Use	Rpt. Exp	Share	Crop/Commodity	Variety/Type	Irr. Prac	Int. Use	Rpt. Exp	Share	Crop/Commodity	Variety/Type	Irr. Prac	Int. Use	Rpt. Exp	Share
01	CORN	YEL	N	GR	58.25	100.00												
Planting Period	Crop/Commodity	Variety/Type	Irrigation Practice	Intended Use	Reported Quantity	Determined Quantity	Planting Period	Crop/Commodity	Variety/Type	Irrigation Practice	Intended Use	Reported Quantity	Determined Quantity					
01	CORN	YEL	N	GR	87.41	25.25												
<b>CERTIFICATION:</b> 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. Absent any different or contrary prior subsequent certification filed by any producer for any crop for which NAP coverage has been purchased, I certify that 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)														Date				
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, family/household status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or 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 (e.g., Braille, large print, accessible website, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA Technical 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 <a href="http://www.usda.gov/procomplaint">http://www.usda.gov/procomplaint</a> , filing, civil here 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) 632-6962. 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: <a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a> . USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.																		

*PHOTO 2: Example of the first page of the FSA Form 578.*

Along with representing landowners on these issues, Peoples Company Land Managers also work closely with county offices on cost share programs that help landowners put conservation infrastructure and practices on their land. Having a local connection to FSA and NRCS offices is incredibly valuable when it comes to knowing about funding opportunities when they become available.

To learn more how about Peoples Company Land Management, email [LandManagement@PeoplesCompany.com](mailto:LandManagement@PeoplesCompany.com) or call 855.800.5263 (LAND).