

USDA FSA Guaranteed *Express*

November 2017
Fall Issue

Why file an Estimated Loss Claim?

Filing an estimated loss claim may not be a top priority or could possibly seem unnecessary when you do not anticipate a loss as liquidation begins. When an estimated loss claim is not filed within 150 days of the missed payment due date, interest accrual included in a loss claim can never exceed 150 calendar days after the missed payment due date (7 CFR 762.149). However, when an estimated loss claim is filed within 150 days after the missed payment due date, the lender is eligible to receive up to 210 days of interest.

If a borrower files bankruptcy, the lender is also entitled to additional interest that could possibly exceed 210 days. Lenders are encouraged to take the time to submit an estimated loss claim, in a timely manner, even when a loss is not expected. And yes, an estimated loss claim may be submitted for \$0!

Contact your local FSA office for assistance in submitting loss claims.

FSA to attend the ABA National Agricultural Bankers Conference in November

If you are planning on attending the ABA conference in Milwaukee, WI November 12-15, 2017 stop by and visit with FSA officials from the local, state, and national office. At the conference, FSA will be hosting a breakout session titled, *Working Together to Benefit American Agriculture*.

Last year USDA Farm Service Agency guaranteed over 10,000 loans that provided capital to thousands of farmers and ranchers. Join us for an interactive session with three agricultural lenders and FSA representatives as they discuss real life examples of how FSA's guaranteed loan program helped, not only their borrowers but also their banks. Gain valuable knowledge about the program and ways you can use it.

In addition to the breakout session, FSA will be participating in a Guaranteed Lender Meeting hosted by Farmer Mac.

For more information on the upcoming ABA conference please click [here](#).



Welcome

Welcome to another edition of Express. At this point in the year, harvest is in full swing and we are gearing up for another busy loan making season. We expect another strong year in 2018 for the Farm Loan Program.

Please remember, with recent natural disasters that have occurred, FSA's mission is not limited to providing new credit. We offer loan servicing options for those guaranteed loan customers whose accounts are distressed or delinquent due to circumstances beyond their control.

I encourage you to contact your local FSA office and ask for more information on all of the FSA programs that are available.

James Radintz
Deputy Administrator
for Farm Loan Programs



Welcome New PLP Lenders

First Merchants Bank— IN

Peoples State Bank— KS

First State Bank Southwest— MN



We want to hear from you!

Do you have a success story to share or have suggestions for future training topics? FSA would like to hear from you. Send your information to:

FSAGuaranteedloans@wdc.usda.gov

Funding Updates

FY 2017 was another strong year for farm loan programs, guaranteed Farm Ownership obligations were the second highest in Agency history.

Total Guaranteed Loan Funds Obligated in FY 2017:

Guaranteed Operating	\$1.36 billion	Total Loans: 4,941
Guaranteed Farm Ownership	\$2.2 billion	Total Loans: 4,663

For FY 2018, FSA is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution through December 8, 2017. FSA has available loan funds to continue to provide affordable credit to our producers and farmers across the country.

FY 2018 Loan Limits

Once again, the Prices Paid by Farmers index as calculated by the National Agricultural Statistics Service did not increase. The guaranteed loan limit for FY 2018 will remain at \$1,399,000. This limit applies to the applicant and anyone who will be signing the promissory note.

To stay up-to-date with the most current FSA Handbook amendment click [here](#).

Servicing Reminders

Have you filed your semi-annual loan status report yet? FSA-2241s are due as of September 30th for all outstanding guaranteed loans. FSA-2241 can be filed electronically through LINC or sent to your local service center for processing.

Notes on Environmental Reviews

FSA must conduct environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on all guaranteed loan requests; these reviews cannot be completed “after the fact” of ground disturbance. Therefore it is critical that applicants not start work on projects until after FSA has completed a NEPA review. This includes clearing of vegetation and site prep. If soil has been disturbed, FSA may not be able to complete a proper review and as a result have to deny the loan request. Consult FSA before any action is taken to start a project.



USDA Connect Guaranteed Lender Community

Stay up-to-date on policy changes, webinars, special events, access to training presentations, past webinars and much more.

To be part of FSA’s USDA Connect Guaranteed Lender Community, please email us at: FSAGuaranteedloans@wdc.usda.gov Include your name, email contact information, and lender institution name.