

Perkins County Women in Ag Day March 11

By Teri Moss

County Executive Director

Mark your calendars! The Perkins County Women in Ag Day will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at the Hastings Memorial Library in Grant. This event is open to all women in Perkins County and surrounding areas and is sponsored by Perkins County FSA and NRCS employees and UNL Extension.

The meeting will start at 1 p.m. and will feature programs on:

- Identity Theft – Personal Identity Protection by Investigator Michael C. Dowling Nebraska State Patrol, Criminal Investigation Division
- Identify your personality style and learn strategies to reduce conflict with coworkers, friends, and family members by Debbie Kuenning, UNL Extension Educator

Guests will also learn the latest updates on FSA, NRCS, and RD programs.

Grab a friend and join us for fun, fellowship, and door prizes!

USDA Reminds Producers of March 17 Sales

Closing Date for

Noninsurable Crops

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director, Dan Steinkruger, urges producers who want to purchase 2014 protection through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to do so before the sales closing date of March 17. The sales closing date is actually Saturday, March 15, but producers have until Monday, March 17, to purchase coverage this year.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind.

Alfalfa, grass and spring seeded crops and forages including but not limited to barley, oats, and vegetables have a sales closing date of March 15.

“Drought has been active in Nebraska since 2012 so farmers and ranchers should evaluate this program as a risk management tool,” said Steinkruger. He added, “The 2014 Farm Bill made improvements to the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program but those changes do not take effect until 2015.”

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the March 17 deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to

exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of the service fee at the time the application for coverage is filed. Producers must recertify their limited resource status for each year that a waiver is requested.

For more information about NAP, please contact your local County FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ne.

Agricultural Act of 2014

Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014. President Obama signed the new Farm Bill on Feb. 7., at Michigan State.

The 2014 Farm Bill contains permanent livestock disaster programs including the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), which will help producers in Nebraska recover from the drought. Producers will be able to sign up for the livestock disaster programs for losses they experienced in 2012 and 2013. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to 5 months. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Some eligibility restrictions may apply.

USDA has made implementation of the Farm Bill livestock disaster assistance programs a top priority and plans to have the programs available for sign up by April 15. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement.

For more information about today's announcements, visit the USDA drought resource page at www.usda.gov/drought.