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| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | October 2018 NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&100&&&https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/216f3a6).   * [Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation extends district enrollment until December 31, 2018](#link_2) * [Loans for Beginning Farmers](#link_3) * [2019 Fall Acreage Reporting Dates](#link_4) * [USDA Commodity Loans Available to Delaware Producers](#link_5) * [USDA Market Facilitation Program](#link_6) * [USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Delaware Producers](#link_7)  Delaware FSA Newsletter | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Delaware Farm Service Agency 1221 College Park Dr.  Dover, DE 19904  Phone: 302-678-4250  Fax: 855-389-2246  Web: [Delaware FSA](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&101&&&http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?area=home&mystate=de&subject=landing&topic=landing&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  **State Executive Director:**  Sean McKeon  **DE State Committee:**  Richard Bergold – Chair  Donnie Collins  Jay Baxter  Lori Ockels  **Selected Interest Rates for OCTOBER 2018**   * Farm Operating Loans — Direct – 3.750% * Farm Ownership Loans — Direct – 4.125% * Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment - 1.50% * Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 yr. term) – 2.875% * Commodity Loans – 3.5%   **Important Dates**  The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will be **closed on Monday, November 12, 2018** in observance of Veterans Day. | Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation extends district enrollment until December 31, 2018 **Deadline extension for agricultural preservation districts puts Delaware closer to preserving 381,000 acres of remaining farmland in upcoming round**  Since 1996, the Delaware AgLands Preservation Program has preserved 127,000 acres of the state’s 508,000 acres currently in agricultural production. After a few years with reduced funding due to statewide budget woes, the tides have turned and the program received full funding this year from Delaware’s General Assembly at $10 million.  The Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation voted to extended district enrollment until December 31, 2018, to any agricultural landowners who want to preserve their farms and still have the opportunity to submit an application for the upcoming round. Farms must be enrolled in a preservation district before the landowner can sell an easement.  There are currently 300 farms participating in the 10-year voluntary preservation districts eligible to sell their development rights during Round 23. Those farms comprise an additional 46,000 acres that could be permanently preserved.  Typically, landowners are eligible to submit a bid to sell their farm’s development rights the year after they enroll their farm into a district agreement. District applications for the upcoming year would usually have closed on December 31, 2017; however, the Foundation members were concerned that landowners might not have applied by the deadline fearing uncertainty for this year’s budget, so the deadline was extended to December 31, 2018.  For more information or to obtain applications related to the Delaware AgLands Preservation Program, interested landowners can visit [https://agriculture.delaware.gov](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&102&&&https://agriculture.delaware.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or call (302) 698-4530. Loans for Beginning Farmers Farm Service Agency assists beginning farmers with purchasing land, equipment, and other inputs by offering both direct and guaranteed loans. With a direct farm ownership loan, the applicant may borrow up to $300,000 to purchase farmland and construct or repair buildings. When that is not enough to cover the purchase price of the farm, we can partner with a bank or other lender to put together a total financing package.  Experienced ag lenders will work with beginning farmers to assemble a financing package that can include both a direct and a guaranteed loan. In this situation, FSA may lend up to $300,000 of the purchase price. The lender will provide the remaining credit. FSA will provide the lender with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on this loan.  Sometimes, the lender will provide all financing and arrange for a guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender’s normal underwriting criteria. Using these tools, beginning farmers who are not financially ready to obtain independent financing from commercial lenders are able to acquire the assets they need to begin farming. | | | 2019 Fall Acreage Reporting Dates **November 15 –** Perennial Forage    **December 15 –** Fall-Seeded Small Grains    **Policy Updates for Acreage Reporting**  The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently made several policy updates for acreage reporting for cover crops, revising intended use, late-filed provisions, grazing allotments as well as updated the definitions of “idle” and “fallow.”  **Reporting Cover Crops:**  FSA made changes to the types of cover crops. Cover crop types can be chosen from the following four categories:   * **Cereals and other grasses** - Any cover crop that is classified as a grass plant or cereal grain, and would include, but not be limited to, the following cover crops: cereal rye, wheat, barley, oats, black oats, triticale, annual ryegrass, pearl millet, foxtail millet (also called German, Italian or Hungarian millet), sorghum sudan grass, sorghum and other millets and grasses. * **Legumes** - Any cover crop that is classified as a legume, including, but not limited to, clovers, vetches, peas, sun hemp, cowpeas, lentils and other legumes. * **Brassicas and other broadleaves** - Any cover crop that is classified as a non-legume broadleaf, including, but not limited to, Brassicas such as radishes, turnips, canola, rapeseed, oilseed rape, and mustards, as well as other broadleaf plants such as phacelia, flax, sunflower, buckwheat, and safflower. * **Mixtures** - Mixes of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time, for example, oats and radishes.   **Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting Date:**  New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 days to change the intended use. Producer share interest changes alone will not allow for revisions to intended use after the acreage reporting date. The revision must be performed by either the acreage reporting date or within 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee’s satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.    **Acreage Reports:**  In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.    **Reporting Grazing Allotments:**  FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments. Producers will use form “FSA-578” to report grazing allotments as animal unit months (AUMs) using the “Reporting Unit” field. The local FSA office will need the grazing period start and end date and the percent of public land.    **Definitions of Terms**  FSA defines “idle” as cropland or a balance of cropland within a Common Land Unit (CLU) (field/subfield) which is not planted or considered not planted and does not meet the definition of fallow or skip row. For example, the balance of a field that could not be planted due to moisture or a turn area that is not planted would be reported as idle.    Fallow is considered unplanted cropland acres which are part of a crop/fallow rotation where cultivated land that is normally planted is purposely kept out of production during a regular growing season. Resting the ground in this manner allows it to recover its fertility and conserve moisture for crop production in the next growing season. USDA Commodity Loans Available to Delaware Producers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency reminds producers that Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are available to help producers through periods of low market prices. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized MALs and LDPs for the 2014 to 2018 crop years.    MALs provide interim financing and allow producers to delay the sale of the commodity at harvest-time lows and wait until more favorable market conditions emerge. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.    MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for barley, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, oats and soybeans.    Delaware FSA offices are now accepting requests for 2018 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest.    Producers must retain beneficial interest in the commodity, meaning they have control of the commodity or a title to the commodity, until the MAL is repaid or the Commodity Credit Corporation takes title to the commodity.    The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed $125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage payments, Marketing Loan Gains and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL disbursements.    Producers or legal entities whose total applicable three-year average adjusted gross income exceeds $900,000 are not eligible for Marketing Loan Gains and LDPs, but are eligible for MALs repaid at principal plus interest.    For information on Commodity Loans, please contact your local FSA Office. USDA Market Facilitation Program USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).  USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer MFP to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, wheat, shelled almond, and fresh sweet cherry producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted.  The sign-up period for MFP runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&103&&&http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). MFP provides payments to producers of eligible commodities who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.  A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer’s total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.  For a list of initial MFP payments rates, view the [MFP Fact Sheet](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&104&&&https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2018/Market_Facilitation_Program_Fact_Sheet_September_2018C.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  MFP payments are limited to a combined $125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, shelled almonds, and fresh sweet cherries capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined $125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than $900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.  Producers are able to submit applications online but first farm operators and owners will need “Level 2 eAuthentication” to access the webportal. This level of security ensures that personal information is protected for each user. Level 2 access can be obtained by going to [www.eauth.usda.gov](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzQwMjIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc0MDIyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjgxMjM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9Y2FycmllLnN0cmFjaGFyQGRlLnVzZGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jYXJyaWUuc3RyYWNoYXJAZGUudXNkYS5nb3YmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&105&&&http://www.eauth.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), completing the required information and then visiting your local FSA office to finalize access. USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Delaware Producers Delaware USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Producers can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.    Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.    **Producers can text:**    Kent County: **DEKENT**  New Castle County: **DENEWCASTLE**  Sussex County: **DESUSSEX**    To **FSANOW (372-669)** to subscribe to text message alerts from Delaware County Offices.    Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.    Please contact your local FSA office if you have questions regarding FSA’s email news service or the new text message option.  USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |