

## In This Issue:

- [It All Starts with Crop Acreage Reporting: SED Assists Producers with Certification](#)
- [Additional Acreage Reporting Policies](#)
- [Top 6 Emergency Relief Program Checklist Items for Eligible Farmers](#)
- [Obtaining Payments Due to Deceased Producers](#)
- [Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage](#)
- [USDA Offers Water Quality-Focused Program That Builds on CRP Contracts, Continuous CRP Signup](#)
- [2022 Avian Influenza in Indiana - What you need to know!](#)
- [Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans](#)
- [USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers](#)
- [USDA Advances Food System Transformation for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, Adds New Urban County Committees](#)
- [NRCS Seeks New Priority Watersheds for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative and National Water Quality Initiative](#)
- [USDA's Risk Management Agency Reminds Producers Considering Double Crop Soybeans of their Crop Insurance Options](#)
- [USDA Reminds Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Producers with Planting Delays to 'Stay in Touch' with Crop Insurance Agents](#)
- [June 2022 Lending Rates](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

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## It All Starts with Crop Acreage Reporting: SED Assists Producers with Certification



The month of June is known for many things – the Indianapolis 500 where ‘winners drink milk’, spring planting in farm fields across the State of Indiana ... and crop certification in Indiana FSA Offices!

This week, I had the opportunity to experience crop certification from the ‘other side of the counter’ in Wells County. It was so rewarding to sit in a county office marking and dating producer maps, visiting with farmers, and working alongside dedicated and talented FSA staff during one of the busiest seasons of the year.

So, I would be remiss if I did not remind you reading this newsletter to make certain and make your appointment with your local FSA office before the July 15<sup>th</sup> [crop acreage reports](#) deadline.

As farmers, acreage reports document a crop grown on a farm and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits under multiple USDA programs.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. For questions, please contact your local County FSA office.

Always remember safety is an important part of everyday life on the farm. Please take an extra step today, to make sure everything and everyone remains safe, on and around your operation.

Our Indiana FSA team continues to work with producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Please contact your local County FSA office to set up an in-person or phone appointment.

Agriculturally Yours,



State Executive Director

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## Additional Acreage Reporting Policies

**Upcoming acreage reporting deadlines can be found below in the Important Dates to Remember section of this newsletter.**

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

### Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

### **Reporting Cover Crops:**

Cover crop types can be chosen from the following four categories:

- **Cereals and other grasses**
- **Legumes**
- **Brassicas and other broadleaves**
- **Mixtures**

If the cover crop is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated according to policy guidelines, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop and the acreage report must be revised to reflect the actual crop.

### **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 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.

### **Reporting Grazing Allotments:**

FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments. You will use form "FSA-578" to report grazing allotments as animal unit months (AUMs) using the "Reporting Unit" field. Your 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.

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.

### **Update Your Records Prior to Your Acreage Reporting Appointment**

In order to streamline your acreage reporting appointment, please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to your local FSA office. This includes changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase or any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902.

## Maps Available for Pickup

Acreage reporting maps are available in most [Indiana FSA county offices](#). If you have not already received or picked up your maps, please contact your county office to have them mailed, emailed or prepared for pick up.

**Producers are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their local USDA service center to file their acreage reports as soon as planting is completed.**

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## Top 6 Emergency Relief Program Checklist Items for Eligible Farmers

FSA recently began mailing 303,000 pre-filled applications for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP), a new program designed to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms, and other qualifying natural disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

The past few years have been tough to say the least. As producers have dealt with the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have also struggled to recover from more frequent, more intense natural disasters. Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act* (P.L. 117-43), which includes \$10 billion in critical emergency relief.

After extensive stakeholder outreach, including with producers and groups that have not always been included in USDA programs, our team began work developing a responsive, easier-to-access program that could be rolled out in phases. We are now rolling out the first phase of ERP, which uses existing [Federal Crop Insurance](#) or [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP) data as the basis for calculating initial payments.

By leveraging existing data, we will be able to deliver approximately \$6 billion in assistance on a faster timeline; at the same time, FSA is committed to ensuring that producers who do not have existing data on file with USDA will be captured in the second phase of ERP, which will be explicitly focused on filling gaps in previously implemented emergency assistance.

To apply for ERP Phase 1, here's what you need to do:

### 1. Check Your Mailbox

The form being mailed to you includes eligibility requirements, outlines the application process, and provides estimated ERP payment calculations. Producers will receive a separate application form for each program year in which an eligible loss occurred. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP phase one payment. This application takes about 0.176 hours (that's less than 15 minutes) for producers to complete, compared to the former Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus application which took several hours for producers to complete and even longer for FSA staff.

The deadline to return completed ERP applications to FSA is **Friday, July 22, 2022**. *If you have NAP coverage, you will receive pre-filled ERP applications later this summer. Details on ERP Phase 2 will be forthcoming as well.*

### 2. Check Your Eligibility

ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes, and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Eligible crops include all crops for which crop insurance or NAP coverage was available, except for crops intended for grazing. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos,

excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought\*, and related conditions.

*\*Lists of [2020](#) and [2021](#) drought counties eligible for ERP are available online.*

### **3. Check Required Forms on File with FSA**

Producers must have the following forms on file with FSA:

- Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable).
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

*If you have previously participated in FSA programs, you will likely have these required forms on file. However, if you're uncertain or want to confirm the status of your forms, contact your [local FSA county office](#).*

### **4. Check Historically Underserved Status with FSA, If Applicable**

The ERP payment percentage for historically underserved producers, including beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers will be increased by 15% of the calculated ERP payment.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have the following form on file with FSA:

- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*.

### **5. Check Your Future Insurance Coverage**

All producers who receive ERP phase one payments are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, for the next two available crop years, as determined by the Secretary.

Coverage requirements will be determined from the date a producer receives an ERP payment and may vary depending on the timing and availability of crop insurance or NAP for a producer's particular crops. The final crop year to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage to meet the second year of coverage for this requirement is the 2026 crop year.

### **6. Check Your bank**

Once the completed ERP application for payment is submitted to and signed by FSA, producers who have direct deposit should look for payment within three business days.

### **More Information**

We have additional resources, including:

- [ERP May 16, 2022 New Release](#)
- [ERP Fact Sheet](#)
- [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

- [Emergency Relief Webpage](#)
- [ERP Notice of Funding Availability](#)

In addition to ERP, FSA is also implementing the first phase of the new Emergency Livestock Relief Program. At this time, FSA has made more than \$588 million in payments to impacted livestock producers.

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## Obtaining Payments Due to Deceased Producers

In order to claim a Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment on behalf of a deceased producer, all program conditions for the payment must have been met before the applicable producer's date of death.

If a producer earned a FSA payment prior to his or her death, the following is the order of precedence for the representatives of the producer:

- administrator or executor of the estate
- the surviving spouse
- surviving sons and daughters, including adopted children
- surviving father and mother
- surviving brothers and sisters
- heirs of the deceased person who would be entitled to payment according to the State law

For FSA to release the payment, the legal representative of the deceased producer must file a form FSA-325 to claim the payment for themselves or an estate. The county office will verify that the application, contract, loan agreement, or other similar form requesting payment issuance, was signed by the applicable deadline by the deceased or a person legally authorized to act on their behalf at that time of application.

If the application, contract or loan agreement form was signed by someone other than the deceased participant, FSA will determine whether the person submitting the form has the legal authority to submit the form.

Payments will be issued to the respective representative's name using the deceased program participant's tax identification number. Payments made to representatives are subject to offset regulations for debts owed by the deceased.

FSA is not responsible for advising persons in obtaining legal advice on how to obtain program benefits that may be due to a participant who has died, disappeared or who has been declared incompetent.

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## Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

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# USDA Offers Water Quality-Focused Program That Builds on CRP Contracts, Continuous CRP Signup

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing the signup period for its Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative (CLEAR30) — a nationwide opportunity for certain landowners and agricultural producers currently implementing water quality practices through the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) to enroll in 30-year contracts, extending the lifespan and strengthening the benefits of important water quality practices on their land.

Producers may apply for CLEAR30, a voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, **from April 1, 2022, through August 5, 2022.**

Cropland and certain pastureland currently enrolled in Continuous CRP or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and dedicated to an eligible water quality practice such as riparian buffers, contour strips, grass waterways or wetland restoration may be eligible if their contracts are expiring by September 30, 2022.

CLEAR30 contracts will be effective beginning October 1, 2022. These long-term contracts ensure that conservation practices remain in place for 30 years, which improves water quality through reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and helping prevent algal blooms. Conservation in riparian areas also provides important carbon sequestration benefits. Traditional CRP contracts run from 10 to 15 years.

## About CLEAR30

CLEAR30 was established in the 2018 Farm Bill to better address water quality concerns. Originally, CLEAR30 was only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds; in 2021, FSA made CLEAR30 available to agricultural producers and landowners nationwide, and participation grew nearly seven-fold from 2020 to 2021.

Annual rental payments for landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will be equal to the current Continuous CRP annual payment rate plus a **20** percent water quality incentive payment and an annual rental rate adjustment of **27.5** percent.

## How to Sign Up

To sign up for CLEAR30, landowners and producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) by **August 5, 2022**. Service Center contact information can be found at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp).

## More Information

CLEAR30 is an option available through CRP, which is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. CRP was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and stabilize commodity prices by taking environmentally sensitive lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing numerous conservation and economic benefits.

In addition to CLEAR30, FSA is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#).

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.



Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp).

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## 2022 Avian Influenza in Indiana - What you need to know!



***Commercial producers  
and  
backyard enthusiasts  
are asked to practice  
good biosecurity  
and  
report sick or dead birds.***

To date, USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories has confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in commercial and backyard flocks in several states including Indiana. Avian influenza viruses are classified as either "low pathogenic (LPAI)" or "highly pathogenic (HPAI)" based on their genetic features and the severity of the disease they cause in poultry. Caused by an influenza type A virus, HPAI can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and wild birds (especially waterfowl).

The clinical signs of birds affected with all forms of Avian Influenza may show one or more of the following:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Decreased water consumption up to 72 hours before other clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Lack of coordination
- Diarrhea

In addition to the disease infecting domestic birds, it is important to know that wild birds can also be infected and show no signs of illness. They can carry the disease to new areas when migrating, potentially exposing domestic poultry to the virus. The [APHIS' wild bird surveillance program](#) provides an early warning system for the introduction and



distribution of avian influenza viruses of concern in the United States, allowing APHIS and the poultry industry to take timely and rapid action.

With the recent detections of avian influenza in wild birds and domestic poultry in the United States, bird owners should review their biosecurity practices and stay vigilant to protect poultry and pet birds from transmission of this disease. The following bio-safety guidelines are effective methods for safeguarding commercial operations and smaller flocks:

- Backyard flock owners should practice strict biosecurity, including preventing birds from exposure and/or co-mingling with wild birds and other types of poultry.
- Shower, change clothes, and clean and disinfect footwear before entering your poultry housing areas.
- Respiratory protection such as a medical facemask would also be important and remember to always wear clean clothes when encountering healthy domestic birds.
- Carefully follow safe entry and exit procedures into your flock's clean area.
- Reduce the attractiveness for wild birds to stop at your place by cleaning up litter and spilled feed around poultry housing areas.
- If you have free range guinea fowl and waterfowl, consider bringing them into coops or flight pens under nets to prevent interaction of domesticated poultry with wild birds and their droppings.
- It is best to restrict visitors from interacting with your birds currently.
- Do not touch sick or dead wildlife and keep them away from domestic poultry.
- Try not to handle sick or deceased domestic birds (if you must, use proper personal protective equipment to minimize direct contact and cautiously disinfect anything that comes into contact with the deceased and or sick bird).

As part of the existing USDA Avian Influenza response plans, Federal and State partners as well as industry are responding quickly and decisively to these outbreaks by following these five basic steps:

- **Quarantine** – restricting movement of poultry and poultry-moving equipment into and out of the control area;
- **Eradicate** – depopulate the affected flock(s);
- **Monitor region** – testing wild and domestic birds in a broad area around the quarantine area;
- **Disinfect** – kills the virus in the affected flock locations; and
- **Test** – confirming that the poultry farm is AI virus-free.

Sick or deceased domestic birds should be reported to your local veterinarian. Positive domestic cases are handled by APHIS and its partners. States that have confirmed cases of Avian Influenza should work closely with USDA-APHIS on surveillance, reporting and control efforts. Disposal methods will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the flock, space requirements, associated costs, local conditions, and applicable laws/regulations.

The United States has the strongest Avian Influenza surveillance program in the world, where we actively look for the disease and provide fair market value compensation to affected producers to encourage reporting.

If you do not raise domestic birds or have a poultry operation but you encounter sick or dead wild birds, please use bio-safety measures, and report your findings through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, this strain of Avian Influenza is a low risk to the public. While the transmission rate from animals to humans is low, it is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be shared between species. To learn more about Avian Influenza and to remain up to date on the latest related news and information, you can visit the USDA [APHIS webpage](#).

The [Indiana State Board of Animal Health's Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza webpage](#) contains state specific information, resources and situation updates. The Indiana Department of Animal Health can be reached at 877-747-3038 or via email to [animalhealth@boah.in.gov](mailto:animalhealth@boah.in.gov).

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## Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans



FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,825,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

For more information on guaranteed loans, contact your [Indiana Regional Farm Loan Office](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

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## USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

***Free basic coverage available for new and underserved loan applicants.***

Producers who apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans will be offered the opportunity to enroll in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP is available to producers who grow noninsurable crops and is especially important to fruit, vegetable, and other specialty crop growers.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered "specialty" crops include vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

Producers can also protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

NAP coverage is not limited to FSA borrowers, beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmers. Any producer who grows eligible NAP crops can purchase coverage. To learn more, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://fsa.usda.gov/nap) or [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

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## USDA Advances Food System Transformation for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, Adds New Urban County Committees



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces significant investments to support urban agriculture, including \$43.1 million for grants and cooperative agreements as well as six new urban county committees to help deliver key USDA programs to urban producers. These actions support USDA's efforts to strengthen the food supply chain and transform the food system to be fairer, more competitive, and more resilient. Specifically, USDA is investing \$10.2 million in new cooperative agreements to expand compost and food waste reduction efforts and \$14.2 million in new grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. Additionally, \$18.7 million will fund 75 worthy grant proposals from the 2021 application cycle, which was oversubscribed. Learn more in the press release found at [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

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# **NRCS Seeks New Priority Watersheds for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative and National Water Quality Initiative**

Indiana NRCS is accepting applications until June 18 to be considered for National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) and the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) planning or implementation projects.

Watershed projects must first complete a watershed assessment plan (planning phase) meeting NRCS guidance (funding is available for a one-year agreement to complete this work). This planning phase will provide time for watershed-level assessment, on-farm planning, and outreach to support development of the multi-year implementation plan that will assist states with their nutrient loss reduction strategies or source water protection. MRBI watersheds must be located in a priority watershed listed in the Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Watersheds with an approved assessment plan can apply for targeted Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding for implementation of conservation practices over the course of several years. The approved assessment plan does not have to be a product of the NWQI or MRBI planning phase but does need to meet the NRCS assessment plan criteria.

Partners who are interested in being a part of an NWQI or MRBI planning phase or implementation phase should contact Jill Reinhart, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. Application materials will be due no later than June 18 for funding in fiscal year 2023.

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## **USDA's Risk Management Agency Reminds Producers Considering Double Crop Soybeans of their Crop Insurance Options**

The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds agricultural producers that for the 2022 crop year there are options for insuring double crop soybeans as well as grain sorghum and other crops in counties where the Following Another Crop (FAC) practice is not available. Producers intending to plant soybeans or other crops after wheat in counties where double crop insurance coverage is not available, may have the option to request coverage through their crop insurance agent. In addition, producers in some areas of the country also have the option to request coverage for soybeans planted into wheat using a relay cropping practice. Producers may request an Unrated Practice, (relay cropping soybeans) or Type Practice (double crop) written agreement through their crop insurance company to insure the crop. Producers requesting coverage for these practices for the first time, have until the acreage reporting date of July 15 to submit a request to their agent.

In addition to these 2022 crop year options, RMA is actively working with stakeholders to identify areas to expand double cropping coverage for the 2023 crop year. This initiative may include expanding where FAC is allowed permanently or by considering other flexibilities and expanding where written agreements are allowed.

For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers should contact their crop insurance agent. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). If producers have additional questions, they can contact RMA's Regional Office in Springfield, Illinois at (217) 241-6600.

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# USDA Reminds Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Producers with Planting Delays to ‘Stay in Touch’ with Crop Insurance Agents

Cold, wet weather in the Midwest has delayed plans to plant or replant for some agricultural producers. The USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers concerned about getting their crop planted or needing to replant to talk with their crop insurance agent.

Producers unable to plant by the final planting date due to an insurable cause of loss may receive a prevented planting payment or receive a reduced insurance guarantee if they choose to plant within the late planting period. Additionally, producers may choose to plant a different crop with a later final planting date while still receiving a partial prevented planting payment. Learn more about [prevented planting](#) and [replanting](#).

Producers with crop insurance may now [hay, graze or chop cover crops](#) at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment, provided the act of haying, grazing or chopping the cover crop did not contribute to the acreage being prevented from planting. RMA updated this policy in 2021 to support the use of cover crops, as an important conservation practice if producers are unable to plant a cash crop. Cover crops can reduce soil erosion and help re-establish soil health and create pathways for air and water to move through the soil. [Learn more about their benefits](#).

For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers should contact their crop insurance agent. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). If producers have additional questions, they can contact RMA’s Regional Office in Springfield at (217) 241-6600.

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## June 2022 Lending Rates

USDA announced loan interest rates for June 2022, which are effective June 1, 2022. USDA’s FSA loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs.

### Operating and Ownership Loans

- [Farm Operating Loans](#) (Direct): 3.625%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct): 3.750%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loan](#) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

You can find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

### Commodity and Storage Facility Loans

- [Commodity Loans](#) (less than one year disbursed): 3.000%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
  - 3, 5, or 10 year loans: 2.875%
  - 7 & 12 year loans: 3.000%



Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov) or by contacting your [local USDA Service Center](#).

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## Dates to Remember

**June 15** – Nominations open for the 2022 County Committee (COC) Election  
**June 15** – Final Acreage Reporting Date Cucumbers (Planted 5/1 to 5/31) Knox County  
**June 20** – **Offices Closed in Observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day**  
**June 21** – Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Corn  
**July 4** – **Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day**  
**July 5** – Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Soybeans  
**July 15** – Final Acreage Reporting Date for All Other Crops (Including Cucumbers Planted 5/10-6/15) in All Other Indiana Counties  
**July 15** – Final Date to Report Production for the Preceding Crop Year for Farms Enrolled in ARC-IC  
**July 22** - Final Date to Submit Phase 1 Emergency Relief Program Application  
**August 1** - Final Date to Submit County Committee Nominees (Form FSA-669A)  
**August 15** – Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/16-8/5) Fulton, LaPorte, Porter and St. Joseph Counties  
**September 15** – Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/1-8/15) Knox County  
**Ongoing** - Signup for [Continuous CRP](#)  
**Ongoing** – Submit an Application for a [Farm Storage Facility Loan](#)  
**Continuous** - Submit an Application for a [FSA Farm Loan](#)  
**Continuous** - Signup for Local County Office FSA Text Alerts  
**Continuous** – Sign up for GovDelivery Newsletters, Bulletins and Indiana Press Releases ([Subscribe to USDA Emails for Farmers](#) | [Farmers.gov](#))

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