

May 31, 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [USDA NASS Seeks Input from Farmers](#)
- [USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property](#)
- [Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\) Losses](#)
- [We are Here to Help!](#)
- [USDA Encourages Iowa Farmers to Begin Field Planning for CRP Practices](#)
- [Livestock Losses](#)
- [USDA Announces March Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers Third 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment](#)
- [USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers](#)

---

## Iowa FSA Newsletter

---

### Iowa Farm Service Agency

10500 Buena Vista Court  
Des Moines, IA 50322

Phone: 515-254-1540  
Fax: 855-218-8672

[www.fsa.usda.gov/ia](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia)

**State Executive Director:**  
Amanda De Jong

**State Committee:**  
James Stillman, Chair  
Laura Cunningham  
Jerry Mohr  
Ralph Morales  
Patricia Swanson

To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/ia](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia)

### USDA NASS Seeks Input from Farmers

During the first two weeks of June, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct major mid-year surveys that will collect information from farmers on 2019 planted acreage, current grain stocks, livestock inventories, cash rents, and the value of land. By responding to these surveys, farmers will help ensure that the information published by NASS represents all areas of the State and is as accurate as possible.

The information collected from growers will provide the first clear sign of the prospective production and supply of major commodities in Iowa and the United States for the 2019 crop year.

By taking a few minutes to participate, selected producers will not only help NASS provide data that levels the playing field for all farmers, giving them access to the same information as grain buyers, packers, and input suppliers as they develop marketing plans for the year, but will also help provide the information used by many USDA programs. State, local, and national leaders also use NASS data to address agricultural related issues that impact producers.

For the June Area Survey, a NASS field interviewer will use an aerial photograph to visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of land in the tract, while other producers will be contacted by mail or telephone. If you are contacted by NASS, we encourage your participation and cooperation.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by producers is kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all

responses and publishes only state-level and national-level results, ensuring that no individual producer can be identified.

Results from the mid-year surveys will be published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both released on June 28, 2019. All reports will be made available on the NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

If you have any questions about how to complete a survey from the NASS Iowa Field Office, please call 800-772-0825.

---

## USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

***Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans), or contact your local FSA office.

---

## Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2019 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap).

---

## We are Here to Help!

Producers across the country have faced many challenges in farming the past year; from market disruptions due to trade issues, disease, and natural disasters - these events can all impact health and well being. We are here to help! There are many local resources available to Iowa producers to turn to during stressful times.

### **Iowa Concern Hotline** 1-800-447-1985

Iowa Concern is a program of the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#). The program began in 1985 as a toll-free number serving the agricultural community. Today, Iowa Concern serves both urban and rural Iowans. Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week at no charge.

Iowa Concern has access to an attorney for legal education, stress counselors, and information and referral services for a wide variety of topics.

### Access Iowa Concern Resources

- Hotline - toll-free at 1-800-447-1985; language interpretation services available
- Frequently asked questions (currently unavailable for updating) database of legal, finance, crisis and disaster, and personal health issues.
- Live chat service that immediately connects you with a stress counselor where you can "talk" (type) one-on-one in a secure environment
- Email an expert with your [legal](#), [finance](#), [stress](#), or [crisis/disaster](#) questions.

### **Children & Families of Iowa** (515) 288-1981

Offers a complete range of out-patient mental health services to support individuals and families wishing to address mental health issues, improve parenting skills and gain perspective in order to reach their goals. Services are available in the Des Moines area, as well as in Ankeny, Fort Dodge, Osceola, and Ottumwa.

### **CommUnity Crisis Services** 1-855-325-4296; (319) 351-0140

Provides immediate support through crisis intervention, food bank and emergency assistance, and community intervention programs.

### **Depression Understood**

Depression contact information for the state of Iowa as well as chat rooms and other resources.

### **Disability Rights IOWA** 1-800-779-2502

Defends and promotes the right of Iowans who have disabilities and mental illness through a program of self advocacy education, information and referral, and both non-legal and legal systems advocacy.

### **Disaster Distress Helpline** 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746

Connects Iowans to the nearest crisis center for information, support, and counseling related to stress and anxiety, following a natural or human-caused disaster.

### **Family Caregiver Alliance** 1-800-445-8106

Family Care Navigator helps family caregivers locate public, nonprofit, and private programs and services nearest their loved one—living at home or in a residential facility. Resources include government health and disability programs, legal resources, disease-specific organizations and more.

### **Foundation 2 Crisis Line** 1-800-332-4224; (319) 362-2174 in Cedar Rapids

Provides trained, compassionate telephone counselors to assist Iowans dealing with a crisis, including suicide, divorce, serious illness, problems with friends/family, financial stresses, or substance abuse.

### **Iowa Crisis Chat** 1-855-325-4296 (call or text)

Free instant-messaging service that offers online emotional support for anyone in need. Available from 9:00 am to 2:00 am central time, seven days a week. Outside of hours of operation, the link will connect you to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 24/7 chat.

### **Iowa COMPASS** 1-800-779-2001

Iowa COMPASS is Iowa's information and referral service for people with disabilities, their families, service providers, and other members of the community. Iowa COMPASS maintains information on over 5,500 local, state, and national agencies and programs. Phone line is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Iowa Drug and Alcohol Help Line** 1-855-581-8111 or text 1-855-895-8398

This is your first call in Iowa for substance abuse and gambling information, and referrals to treatment facilities and crisis counseling.

**Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association** 1-800-277-8145 or (515) 289-4567

Provides resources, referrals, and peer support to foster, adoptive, and kinship families throughout Iowa.

**Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline** 1-800-284-7821

Trained advocates provide free, confidential counseling and support, as well as referrals to medical and legal advocacy.

**Iowa Victim Service Call Center** 1-800-770-1650 or text "iowahelp" to 20121

Puts domestic abuse survivors or others affected by domestic violence in immediate contact with a trained advocate who can provide crisis counseling; provides information and education about domestic abuse issues; refers callers to the domestic violence project in their area of the state.

**Iowa's Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Hotline** 1-800-362-2178

Hotline for reporting suspected child or dependent adult abuse or fraud.

**Speech to Speech** Dial 7-1-1 and request Speech-to-Speech

Relay services for the hard of hearing, deaf, and those with speech disabilities.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** 1-800-662-HELP (4357); TTY: 1-800-487-4889

Also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service, this Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential treatment referral and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, and recovery. (English and Spanish).

**TEEN Line** 1-800-443-8336

TEEN Line is not a crisis or hotline but is a free, confidential line that provides personal and health-related information and referrals on topics such as: health, eating/weight, relations with parents or friends, violence, AIDS/HIV, alcohol or drug use, sexual relationships, birth control/pregnancy, and stress.

**Veteran's Crisis Line** 1-800-273-8255 or text 838255; TTY: 1-800-799-4889

Connects veterans in crisis (and their families and friends) with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential, toll-free hotline, online chat or text.

**Your Life Iowa** (855) 581-8111 or text (855) 895-8398

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers a one-stop hub for Iowans looking for help with suicide prevention, problem gambling and substance abuse. The website integrates information and resources previously found on three separate sites, the IDPH Suicide Prevention web page, 1-800-BETS OFF, and the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center websites. The new system also offers a telephone helpline (all three previous toll free numbers will still be active), mobile-friendly internet-based communication (e.g., online chat), and texting capabilities.

**Youth Law Center** 1-800-728-1172

The Youth Law Center provides the Youth Law Hotline 8 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Anyone living in Iowa who is under the age of 18 can call the hotline to get free legal advice and information regarding issues affecting youth rights and responsibilities.

---

## USDA Encourages Iowa Farmers to Begin Field Planning for CRP Practices

USDA staff in Iowa are encouraging landowners interested in implementing practices through the upcoming continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to visit their local USDA Service Center soon. It is important to begin the field planning process before crop growth makes fields difficult to examine.

USDA is accepting new continuous CRP applications, beginning June 3. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced a [limited continuous CRP signup](#), prioritizing water-quality practices through the 2018 Farm Bill.

This year's signup will include practices such as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, saturated buffers, denitrifying bioreactors and wetland restoration. A full list of eligible practices is available through [FSA](#).

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. FSA plans to open more CRP options for the December 2019 signup.

Producers interested in applying for continuous CRP practices should contact their USDA Service Center, beginning June 3. More information about CRP can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp).

---

## Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2019 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2020.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

## USDA Announces March Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers Third 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment

*Dairy Margin Coverage Program Sign-Up Begins June 17*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this week that the March 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$8.85 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the third payment for dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

The signup period for DMC opens June 17, 2019. Dairy producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$9 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January, February and March 2019.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production would receive \$1,543.75 for March.

Sample calculation:

$\$9.50 - \$8.85 \text{ margin} = \$0.65 \text{ difference}$

$\$0.65 \times 95 \text{ percent of production} \times 2,500 \text{ cwt. (30,000 cwt./12)} = \$1,543.75$

DMC premiums are paid annually. The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 95 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$4,275.

Sample calculation:

$3,000,000 \times 95 \text{ percent} = 2,850,000/100 = 28,500 \text{ cwt.} \times 0.150 \text{ premium fee} = \$4,275$

The dairy operation in the example calculation will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$8,170 in DMC payments for January, February and March combined. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level.

All participants are also required to pay an annual \$100 administrative fee in addition to any premium, and payments will be subject to a 6.2 percent reduction to account for federal sequestration.

Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates. For the example above, this would reduce the annual premium by \$1,068.75.

### **About DMC**

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today's updates are part of meeting that goal.

Recently, FSA announced the availability of the [DMC decision support tool](#) as well as [repayment options](#) for producers who were enrolled in MPP-Dairy.

For DMC signup, eligibility and related dairy program information, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](#).

---

## **USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

---

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).

---



Questions?  
[Contact Us](#)