

July 2016



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## Missouri FSA Newsletter

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### Missouri Farm Service Agency

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

Check out our [State Events](#)  
page for upcoming  
agricultural events.

### Have you Signed your 2016 ARC or PLC Contract?

August 1 is the deadline to sign 2016 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) contracts. If a farm is not enrolled (contract not signed) during the 2016 sign up, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

Be sure to check with your local county office to see if an appointment is requested. Aug. 1 is just around the corner - don't miss out.

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### Marketing Assistance Available for 2016 Wheat, Other Crops

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

In Missouri, hard red winter (HRW) wheat prices are nearing a range where LDPs may be applicable, so producers should become familiar with the process to access this assistance.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, as well as other commodities such as feed grains, soybeans and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey.

MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Producers repay the loan at principal plus interest or at the Posted County Prices (PCP) when it falls below the loan rate. The difference between the loan rate and the PCP is known as Market Loan Gain (MLG).

A producer who is eligible to obtain an MAL, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

To be eligible for an MAL or an LDP, producers must have a beneficial interest in the commodity, in addition to other requirements. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained. For an LDP, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the producer filed [Form CCC-633EZ \(page 1\)](#) in the FSA County Office. For more information, producers should contact their local FSA county office or view the [LDP Fact Sheet](#). Producers can view their local LDP and Posted County Price at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport).

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## County Committee Nominations Due Aug. 1

The nomination period for FSA county committees must be received by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016, in your local county office.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process. Check with your local FSA office to find out the LAA up for election this year.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the county FSA office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact your county FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather 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 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- 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) = 6%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

For 2016 and subsequent calendar years, eligible livestock owners and eligible contract growers who suffer a loss of livestock must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is first apparent to the participant. An application for payment must be filed no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

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

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## Dairy Producers Can Enroll in Margin Protection Program

Dairy producers can enroll for 2017 coverage in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) starting July 1.

The Margin Protection Program gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment began July 1 and ends on Sept. 30, 2016, for coverage in calendar year 2017. Participating farmers will remain in the program through 2018 and pay a minimum \$100 administrative fee each year. Producers have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year.

USDA has a web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the Margin Protection Program that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool), allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections.

To complete enrollment, producers must make coverage elections during the enrollment period and pay the annual \$100 administrative fee that provides basic catastrophic protection that covers 90 percent of milk production at a \$4 margin coverage level. For additional premiums, operations can protect 25 to 90 percent of production history with margin coverage levels from \$4.50 to \$8, in 50 cent increments. Once enrolled, dairy operations are required to participate through 2018 by making coverage elections each year. Producers can mail the appropriate form to the producer’s administrative county FSA office, along with applicable fees without necessitating a trip to the local FSA office. If electing higher coverage for 2017, dairy producers can either pay the premium in full at the time of enrollment or pay 100 percent of the premium by Sept. 1, 2017. Premium fees may be paid directly to FSA or producers can work with their milk handlers to remit premiums on their behalf.

For more information, visit FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy) or stop by a local FSA office to learn more about the Margin Protection Program. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Borrower Training

Borrower training is available for all Farm Service Agency customers. This training is required for all direct loan applicants, unless the applicant has a waiver issued by the agency.

Borrower training includes instruction in production and financial management. The purpose is to help the applicant develop and improve skills that are necessary to successfully operate a farm and build equity in the operation. It aims to help the producer become financially successful. Borrower

training is provided, for a fee, by agency approved vendors. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager for a list of approved vendors.

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## Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for July 2016	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	1.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	1.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	1.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Final date to sign ARC/PLC contracts.
Aug. 1	County Committee nominations must be submitted to your local county FSA office.
Sept. 1	NAP application closing date for greens, aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng root, turf grass sod, mushrooms & floriculture.
Sept. 1	Premiums are due for 2016 Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) coverage.

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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).

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