

September 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).

[Click here](#) for the Missouri  
Department of  
Conservation Covey  
Headquarters newsletter.

### Have You Reported your 2017 Hay and Pasture Yet?

The acreage reporting deadline for reporting 2017 Perennial Forage is November 15, 2016.

An accurate and complete crop certification report is required to be eligible for FSA programs, including Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

Perennial forage includes, but is not limited to, grass, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, clover and mixed forage intended for hay or grazing.

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### Do We Have your Current Banking Information?

Payment cycles will start in October, including CRP annual payments and any payments earned through the ARC and PLC programs. In order for timely payments to be made, it is crucial that you notify your local FSA office when you have changes with your bank account number or bank routing number.

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## USDA Extends Margin Protection Program for Dairy Enrollment Deadline

The deadline for dairy producers to enroll in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy has been extended to Dec. 16, 2016, from the previous deadline of Sept. 30. This voluntary dairy safety net program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the producer. A USDA web tool, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool), allows dairy producers to calculate levels of coverage available from MPP based on price projections.

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## Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

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## Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul or move any grain under loan.

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## USDA Helps Farms and Businesses Cut Energy Costs

USDA is offering grants and loan guarantees to help rural businesses and agricultural producers reduce their energy costs and consumption. The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Loans and grants are available to install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

Renewable energy systems include solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digesters, and renewable biomass. Energy efficiency improvements include grain drying and handling, lighting, refrigeration, facility improvements (such as adding insulation or replacing windows), heating and cooling upgrades, motor replacements and automated control upgrades.

- Cedar Creek Hardwoods, Inc. (Fredericktown, MO) received a \$20,000 grant to upgrade their lighting and HVAC system which will lower their costs by 49 percent.
- SP Aker-Haslag Poultry, LLC (Windsor, MO) received a \$14,770 grant to upgrade six poultry barns with retrofits that will lower costs by 23 percent.

Grants of up to 25 percent of a project's total costs are available.

- The maximum grants are \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems

Loans guarantees of up to 75 percent of a project's total costs are available.

- The minimum loan is \$5,000
- The maximum loan is \$25 million

For grant requests of \$20,000 and less the application deadlines are **October 31, 2016** and March 31, 2017. For grant requests greater than \$20,000 the application deadline is **March 31, 2017**. Guaranteed loan applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

For information on REAP contact (573) 876-9321 or email [nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov](mailto:nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov)

Don't miss this great opportunity!

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## **USDA Climate Hub Building Block: Conservation of Sensitive Lands**

USDA Climate Hubs are working with producers, ranchers, pasture and forest landowners to effectively partner in ways to help reduce climate change. To aid in this partnership, USDA established the 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.

One such Building Block is the “Conservation of Sensitive Lands”. The term “sensitive lands” denotes soils and landscapes that are valuable due to properties (e.g., high organic matter, wet hydrology) and/or function (e.g., wildlife habitat, filtration, and hydrologic storage). Typical examples of these soils are organic rich histosols, floodplains, or wetlands along riparian areas. Properties and functions of these soils are easily disrupted from agricultural or urban land use.

Sensitive lands that are used for agricultural production can be protected by changes in land use (long-term cover). This reduction in land use intensity can provide multiple environmental benefits, including substantial GHG mitigation that occurs as carbon is sequestered or preserved in soils and vegetation. When land is removed from crop production, several activities—including tillage, nitrogen fertilization, and energy use—are substantially reduced or eliminated, generating additional GHG mitigation.

FSA and NRCS are committed to identifying these sensitive lands and encouraging landowners, farmers, and ranchers to voluntarily adopt conservation systems--using financial and technical assistance--to generate GHG benefits. To read more about Conservation of Sensitive Lands, click the following link: [http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate\\_change/building\\_blocks/4\\_SensitiveLands.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/building_blocks/4_SensitiveLands.pdf)

For more information about the USDA Climate Hubs click here:

<http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>

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## Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

| Selected Interest Rates for September 2016                              |       |
|---|-------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill  | .250  |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct   | 2.125 |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct   | 3.125 |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.50  |
| Emergency Loans   | 3.125 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)                                   | .875  |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)                                   | 1.125 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)                                   | 1.375 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)                                  | 1.500 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)                                  | 1.625 |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present  | 1.500 |

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 30          | NAP application closing date for strawberries & fall-seeded small grains.              |
| Oct. 10           | Columbus Day Holiday. FSA offices are closed.  |
| Nov. 15           | Final date to report apiculture, pasture, rangeland and forage.                        |
| Dec. 15           | Final date to report fall barley, fall wheat & all other fall-seeded small grains.     |
| Dec. 16           | Deadline for enrollment for 2017 coverage in the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) |

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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).