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Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

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

Safety-Net Payments Issued to Missouri Farmers

Missouri Farm Service Agency announced that many of the approximately 73,000 Missouri farms enrolled in safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill received financial assistance for the 2015 crop year through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. These programs are designed to protect against unexpected drops in crop prices or revenues due to market downturns.

ARC and PLC provide help when price and revenues fall below normal, unlike the previous direct payments program that provided funds even in good years. Payments by county can vary because average county yields and guarantees will differ. In some cases, the average price for a crop for the market year was higher than the historical benchmark established by the program, so financial assistance did not occur.

More details on the price and yield information used to calculate the financing assistance from the safety-net programs is available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc and www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

2017 Hay and Pasture Acreage Reporting Deadline - Nov. 15

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.

To streamline the acreage reporting process, a method to certify selected perennial crops on a continuous basis was developed. Continuous certification allows producers to report the certified acreage so it will roll forward annually and does not require additional action on the part of the producer or FSA in subsequent years unless a change to the acreage report occurs. Non-perennial crops are not covered by a continuous certification and must be reported each year. For example, alfalfa is not covered under a continuous certification.

Forage includes, but is not limited to, grass, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, clover and mixed forage intended for hay or grazing. If you have 2016 expired or expiring acreage currently in CRP-Conservation Reserve Program, BCAP – Biomass Crop Assistance Program or GRP – Grassland Reserve Program and you intend to leave that acreage in grass intended for hay or grazing in 2017, you will need to report and certify those fields by November 15, 2016.

USDA Reminds Producers of Nov. 1 ELAP Application Deadline

Eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and flooding, not covered by other programs, have until Nov. 1, 2016, to submit an application and notice of loss under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP can provide financial assistance to a livestock producer who has faced losses due to adverse such as: grazing losses, loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed (example: hay or silage), additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities, colony losses in excess of normal mortality, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2016
- An application for payment by November 1, 2016

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

Upcoming Sales Closing Date for Noninsurable Crops

November 20, 2016, is the sales closing date for 2017 coverage under FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for **apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums & blueberries**.

Eligible producers can apply for 2017 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office. The service fee for basic NAP coverage is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes higher levels of coverage ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Additional coverage must be elected by a producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage. Producers interested in buy-up coverage must pay a premium, in addition to the service fee.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, beginning farmer or rancher or limited resource farmer or rancher will have service fees waived. Producers meeting this definition that choose to purchase buy-up coverage will also have service fees waived and the premium coverage is 50 percent of the regular premium fee charge.

The application and service fee must be filed by applicable sales closing date for the crop.

[Click here](#) to learn more about NAP.

Don't Forget - Margin Protection Program for Dairy Enrollment Ends Dec. 16

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, allows dairy producers to calculate levels of coverage available from MPP based on price projections.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

USDA also unveiled a new category of lenders that will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

USDA is providing a 90-day period for the public to review and comment on program improvements. To review program details, visit www.regulations.gov, reference RIN 0560-AI34 and follow the instructions to submit comments.

More than half of all FSA loans go to new farmers and more than a quarter to underserved borrowers. FSA also offers loans of up to \$5,000 to young farmers and ranchers through the Youth Loan Program. Loans are made to eligible youth to finance agricultural projects, with almost 9,000 young people now participating. More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for October 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)	1.50
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	1.625
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	1.750
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 1	Final date to submit an application for payment for 2016 losses under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Holiday. USDA offices are closed.
Nov. 15	Final date to report apiculture, pasture, rangeland and forage.
Nov. 20	NAP application closing date for apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums and blueberries.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. USDA offices are closed.
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)

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).