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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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

A Note from Your State Executive Director

As I prepare this note, and hopefully as you are reading, it is a beautiful spring day with growing grass and optimism of a new production year here in central Missouri. I suspect "not so much" along our river counties as they are assessing damages from the flooding and are keeping a watchful eye on river levels as new storms approach. Having seen the beginnings of flooding along the Mississippi river and the peak flood levels along the Missouri river, my heart goes out to the producers and agricultural businesses hit hard by winter storm Ulmer. As the water starts to recede, we all wait to see the battle scars inflicted on the farmland. Many producers have sustained heavy losses with the 2018 crop stored in flooded grain bins and the 2019 planting season in question.

Your Missouri Farm Service Agency has been busy preparing program authority to assist producers with the various needs that we can address, including our funding requests which will be tasked of Congress to consider. Additionally, FSA county staff have made county-specific damage assessments necessary to support the request for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration by Governor Parson.

Missouri FSA is working with NRCS to conduct Missouri Flood Recovery Assistance producer meetings in the hard-hit areas of Atchison and Holt counties, on May 2 and May 3, respectively. In addition to USDA agencies, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and University of

Missouri Extension will also be on hand to provide information and resources.

Beginning today, producers in Atchison and Holt counties can visit their local FSA office to apply for assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). More information, including program and eligibility requirements, is provided later in this newsletter.

The catastrophic events of 2019's winter and spring have created extreme stress in the agricultural community; be mindful of both your neighbors' health and your own wellness in those heavily-affected areas. Recovery will be painfully slow for many and I hope producers will find our programs to be beneficial.

Best regards,

Brent Hampy
FSA State Executive Director

Important Dates to Remember

The deadline to certify production under the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is **May 1, 2019**.

Producers who plant spring oats and potatoes are reminded to report these crops to their local FSA office by **May 15, 2019**.

Crops insured under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported by the final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.

The staff at the Missouri Farm Service Agency wishes everyone a safe planting season!

USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

"When other insurance coverage is not an option, NAP is a valuable risk mitigation tool for farmers and ranchers," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "In agriculture, losses from natural disasters are a matter of when, not if, and having a NAP policy provides a little peace of mind."

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevent crop planting.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Producers have a *one-time opportunity until May 24, 2019*, to obtain buy-up coverage for 2019 or 2020 eligible crops for which the NAP application closing date has passed.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. These amounts reflect a \$75 service fee increase for crop, county or multi-county coverage. The fee increases apply to obtaining NAP coverage on crops on or after April 8, 2019.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, “*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*”

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

Emergency Conservation Program Assistance Available in Two Missouri Counties

Producers in Atchison and Holt counties who have suffered severe losses as a result of recent flooding may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the
- land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland

- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. In addition to limited resource producers, the 2018 Farm Bill authorizes socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers to earn up to 90 percent cost share of the total allowable costs. No producer is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations

Producers in Atchison and Holt counties may contact their local FSA county office and request assistance from April 15 to June 14, 2019.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, please contact your local FSA office visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Storage and Handling Trucks Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) provide low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities they produce. Some storage and handling trucks are eligible for the FSFL. These include:

- **Cold Storage Trucks**-A van or truck designed to carry perishable freight at specific temperatures. Cold storage trucks can be ice-cooled or equipped with any variety of mechanical refrigeration systems.
- **Flatbed Trucks**-Truck with an open body in the form of a platform with no side walls for easy loading and unloading. These trucks can be categorized into different sizes which range from light, medium, or heavy duty, compact or full-size, or short and expandable beds.
- **Grain Trucks**-A piece of farm equipment specially made to accommodate grain products and are traditionally truck chassis units with a mounted grain "dump" body where grain commodities are transported from a field to either a grain elevator or a storage bin.
- **Storage Trucks with a Chassis Unit**-Commonly referred to as a box truck, box van or straight truck, is a truck with a cargo body mounted on the same chassis with the engine and cab.

To be eligible for FSFL, the storage and handling truck must be less than 15 years old and have a maximum of four axles with a gross weight rating of 60,000 pounds or less. Pick-up trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, and simple insulated and ventilated vans are ineligible for FSFL.

FSFL for storage and handling trucks must be \$100,000 or less. FSFL-financed storage and handling trucks must be used for the purpose for which they were acquired for the entire FSFL term.

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture.

For more information or to apply for a FSFL, contact your local [FSA Service Center](#).

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans

2018 Farm Bill Increases Limits and Makes Other Changes to Farm Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$ 1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.

- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

About Farm Loans

Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for April 2019

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.375%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.750%
Commodity Loans (1996-Present)	3.500%

Dates to Remember

May 1, 2019	NAP application closing date for ornamental nursery for subsequent year.
May 1, 2019	Beginning of primary nesting season for Missouri. No maintenance (mowing, spraying, burning or disking) on CRP acreage.
May 15, 2019	Final date to report spring oats and potatoes.
May 27, 2019	Memorial Day Holiday. USDA offices are closed.
May 31, 2019	Final availability date for 2018 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for feed grains, upland cotton, soybeans & minor oilseeds.

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).