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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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To find contact information
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

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

A Note from Your State Executive Director

In my last note, we were busy finishing up our 2018 work. We are now very busy, still finishing up 2018, and hitting the ground running in 2019! Most producers have been through years where spring comes late, or is consistently wet, which puts corn planting behind schedule for 30 days. Subsequently, soybean planting is behind schedule 30 days; then hay harvest is behind schedule. It seems you can never quite catch up all season long. In the same regard, substitute in a government shutdown before the implementation of a new Farm Bill and you understand my feeling.

FSA is working to accomplish our tasks in this new timeframe and I am very proud of the way our FSA county offices are prioritizing programs to best serve the immediate needs of our producers. Program sign up deadlines were extended which is very helpful. Feb. 14th is the signup deadline for MFP. The deadline for LFP currently is Feb. 28th. These programs have been very helpful to many producers. Indicatively, any time we implement a disaster program and roll out a new program, it means stressful times, both for FSA customers and FSA employees. Thank you for your patience as we service your requests.

I recently received a notice from our sister agency, NRCS, which exuberantly proclaimed the drought monitor showed Missouri was no longer in a drought! I thanked them for the notice. Then I did inquire if they were available to assist me in explaining this good news to a few of my newborn calves now weathering these 30-degree rains. So far, no takers!

Best regards,

Brent Hampy
FSA State Executive Director

USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Program Deadline Extensions

USDA's Farm Service Agency extended deadlines on many of its programs because of the government shutdown and the emergency nature of many of the programs. Below are updated deadlines:

*** For details on all program deadlines and extensions, view [FSA National Notice CM-807](#)

Farm Programs

- Market Facilitation Program
 - *Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Final day to certify 2018 production is May 1, 2019*
- Marketing Assistance Loans
 - *If loan matured in December 2018, settlement date extended to Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Peanut loans or Loan Deficiency Payments - loan availability date now Feb. 28, 2019*
- Emergency Conservation Program
 - *Performance reporting due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Livestock Forage Disaster
 - *2018 application for payment due Feb. 28, 2019*
- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Livestock Indemnity Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
 - *Submitting 2019 application for coverage due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable) due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Tree Assistance Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Acreage Reporting
 - *January reporting deadlines extended to Feb. 14, 2019*

For inquiries related to these programs or any not listed above, contact your local FSA office. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA to Host 2018 Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session

USDA is hosting a listening session for initial input on the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA is seeking public input on the changes to existing programs implemented by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Risk Management Agency. Each agency will take into account stakeholder input when making discretionary decisions on program implementation.

The listening session will be held Feb. 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Building located at 14th Street and Independence Ave. S.W. in Washington, D.C.

The listening session is open to the public. Participants must register at farmers.gov/farmbill by February 22, 2019, to attend the listening session and are encouraged to provide written comments prior to the listening session. For those orally presenting comments at the listening session, written comments are encouraged to be submitted to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by February 22, 2019. Additional written comments will be accepted through March 1, 2019. Comments received will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

For more information on the listening session visit farmers.gov/farmbill.

Get Access to the Farmers.gov Dashboard

The vision of farmers.gov is to provide farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners with online self-service applications, educational materials, engagement opportunities, and business tools.

Many of these self-service features are available through the secure [farmers.gov portal](https://farmers.gov/portal), where you can log in to your dashboard to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

If you work with USDA, we encourage you to get an USDA eAuthentication account, providing you access to the farmers.gov dashboard and enabling you to better manage your USDA business online.

Sign Up Today

We encourage you to register for a Level 2 eAuthentication account:

1. Contact your [local service center](#) to ensure your correct email address is on file.
2. Create an account at www.eauth.usda.gov. When creating your account, be sure to request Level 2 access and use the email address on file.
3. Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA service center.
4. Now that you're now enrolled, contact your local USDA service center to have your account linked with your USDA customer record.
5. You're ready to login!

Currently, only customers doing business as individuals can access their records using a USDA eAuthentication account. Access for customers doing business as an entity (such as an LLC or Trust) or on behalf of another individual will be available in the future.

Available Dashboard Features

USDA is building farmers.gov *for farmers, by farmers*, based on feedback from you and our field employees who serve you. Once you're logged in to the secure farmers.gov portal, you can view a dashboard personalized with your customer profile and complete the following activities:

- View and track your application for the [2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program](#); and
- Apply for the [Market Facilitation Program](#).

You can also link directly to our existing business applications, such as Farm Service Agency's [FSAfarm+](#) and Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Conservation Client Gateway](#). As we grow, these and other USDA business applications will be integrated into the dashboard.

Other Upcoming Features

In the next year, USDA plans to add new features to the dashboard, enabling you to:

- view information on current and previous farm loans;
- evaluate loan programs to find the best fit for your business goals;
- submit loan documents to your service center; and
- view your farm records, including your farm and tract number and maps.

Need Help?

For help setting up your account, call our help desk at 1-800-457-3642. For other questions, we encourage you to reach out to your [local USDA service center](#).

To read the full blog, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/media/blog/2018/12/19/get-access-your-farmersgov-dashboard>.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria. Projects, such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA

to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

Payment Limitations by Program

The 2014 Farm Bill established a maximum dollar amount for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Payment limitations vary by program for 2014 through 2018.

Below is an overview of payment limitations by program.

Commodity and Price Support Programs The annual limitation for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Loan Gains is \$125,000 total.

Conservation Programs The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment and incentive payment is limited to \$50,000. CRP contracts approved before Oct. 1, 2008, may exceed the limitation, subject to payment limitation rules in effect on the date of contract approval.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has an annual limit of \$200,000 per disaster event. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) has an annual limit of \$500,000 per disaster event.

Disaster Assistance Programs – 2017 & Subsequent Years

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) have a \$125,000 per person and legal entity single payment limitation that applies to the total amount of program year payments received.

Program payments under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP) no longer have payment limits.

Payment limitations also apply to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Contact your local NRCS office more information.

Guaranteed Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,429,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your lender or local FSA farm loan office for more information on guaranteed loans.

Upcoming Mid-Mo Soil Health Seminar

The 2018 Mid-Missouri Soil Health Seminar will be held Tuesday, March 5, through Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 100 Isle of Capri Blvd., in Boonville, MO. This workshop is dedicated to soil health as it relates to cover crops, grazing and nutrient management.

Admission is \$20 per day and pre-registration is required. Registration will end when 300 seats are filled for each day or on February 15, whichever comes first. Register at www.midmosoilhealth.com, call 660-882-5647 ext. 3, or email david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov. A block of rooms will be held at the Isle of Capri Hotel until February 15 or when full, and can be reserved by calling 660-882-1200.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for February 2019

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.375%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.125%
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)	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.750%
Commodity Loans (1996-Present)	3.625%

Dates to Remember

February 18, 2019	George Washington's Birthday. USDA Service Center Closed.
February 28, 2019	NAP application closing date for rice.
March 15, 2019	NAP application closing date for many NAP crops, including forage and pasture.
March 31, 2019	Final availability date for 2018 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for small grains and honey. (Since the 31st falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted through Monday, April 1st.)

May 1, 2019	NAP application closing date for ornamental nursery for subsequent year.
May 15, 2019	Final date to report spring oats and potatoes.

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).