

July 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center Suite 225
601 Bus. Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65203

Phone: 573-876-0925
Fax: 855-830-0680

www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Acting State Executive Director: Kim Viers

State Committee:

Julie Hurst - Chair
Marc Allison
Cindy Schroeder
Will Spargo
Barbara Wilson

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

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

Acres Reporting and ARC/PLC Enrollment Deadlines Approaching

Producers can still timely file acreage reports for 2018 spring-seeded crops, including CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, cover crops, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, and soybeans, through July 16, 2018. November 15, 2017 was the final reporting date for 2018 pasture, rangeland, forage and apiculture. If a crop hasn't been planted by the reporting date listed above, it must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

The deadline to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and/or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2018 crop year is August 1. Producers have already elected ARC or PLC for their farms, but since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract annually to receive program benefits. Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment if you have not yet enrolled for 2018. For more program information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

USDA Authorizes Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program Acres for 45 Missouri Counties

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting State Executive Director Kim Viers today announced that 45 Missouri counties are authorized for emergency haying and

grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for fiscal year 2018. FSA's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Unlike previous years, counties are not automatically approved for CRP emergency grazing when they reach the D2 (severe drought) level on the U.S. Drought Monitor. If there is a need for emergency grazing, each local FSA office must request approval from the Missouri FSA state committee.

Currently, 45 counties have received emergency haying and grazing approval, as follows: Adair, Andrew, Audrain, Barry, Barton, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Dade, Daviess, Dekalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Knox, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lewis, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Moniteau, Monroe, Nodaway, Platte, Putnam, Randolph, Ray, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Sullivan and Worth.

This emergency release will begin July 16, 2018, the first day after the primary nesting season in Missouri has ended. The emergency grazing period for these counties will end September 30, 2018. The emergency haying authorizations end August 31, 2018.

"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying and grazing of CRP must request approval before haying and grazing eligible acreage and must obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that includes haying and grazing provisions," said Viers. "Current provisions allow grazing on 100 percent of a field, up to the 75 percent stocking rate," she said.

There will be no CRP annual rental payment reduction for 2018 emergency haying and grazing authorizations.

To take advantage of the emergency grazing provisions, authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. The eligible CRP acreage is limited to acres located within the approved county.

In counties that are authorized for emergency haying and grazing, producers are reminded that the same CRP acreage cannot be both hayed and/or grazed during the same release period. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unhayed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unhayed and ungrazed for wildlife. In addition, participants are limited to one hay cutting and are not permitted to sell any of the hay.

For more information and to request approval for emergency haying or grazing use of CRP acres, contact your local FSA office. To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Offers Drought-Impacted Missouri Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

Farm Service Agency Stands Ready to Assist Agricultural Producers Affected by Drought

Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers of federal farm program benefits that may be available to help eligible producers recover from drought.

FSA offers disaster assistance to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts during drought or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs include:

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** – provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. Producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible adverse weather conditions. Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event, except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and directly results in the death of eligible livestock. Producers must submit a notice of loss within 30 days after the death is first apparent.
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** – provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. Producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** – provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** – provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Missouri counties currently approved for assistance include Andrew, Caldwell, Daviess, DeKalb, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Livingston, Nodaway, Putnam, Schuyler and Sullivan.
- **HayNet** – is an internet-based Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze. www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet.

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster or contact your local FSA Office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Missouri Producers Asked to Submit Drought Information

The public is invited to submit information to help local, state and national decision-makers assess drought conditions and impacts in Missouri.

Producers may submit information about conditions in your area to the Missouri Extension Drought Impact Reporter at arcg.is/1f95Pi, said Pat Guinan, University of Missouri Extension climatologist. Guinan worked with the National Drought Mitigation Center and the National Integrated Drought Information System to develop the website.

“This site will be very helpful when it comes to assessing drought conditions and compiling impact reports at the local, county and state level,” he said.

Information provided by users is shared with the National Drought Impact Reporter (droughtreporter.unl.edu), the nation’s first comprehensive database of drought impacts.

Input from Missourians helps decision-makers gain a more complete and accurate portrayal of drought conditions affecting the Show-Me State, Guinan said.

A related resource is the U.S. Drought Monitor at droughtmonitor.unl.edu, a weekly map that shows the location and intensity of drought in the U.S. The map is based on measurements of climatic, hydrologic and soil conditions as well as reported impacts and observations from hundreds of contributors across the country, including people who contribute to the Drought Impact Reporter.

Drought Monitor authors assess the data and use their best judgment to create the weekly drought map. Drought reports are available to the public and archived for future use.

“I encourage your participation,” Guinan said. “Nobody knows a drought and its impacts better than a person living in it does. Your local input and expertise is valued and will provide additional information for the author to consider when assessing Missouri drought conditions and categories.”

The Missouri Extension Drought Impact Reporter allows contributors to upload image files up to 10 MB in size.

“Pictures are extremely helpful for map authors when assessing drought at the local level,” he said.

You can subscribe to the Drought Impact Reporter RSS feed at moderator.droughtreporter.unl.edu/rssfeed/. Add the two-letter postal abbreviation at the end of the URL to receive a feed for a specific state. For example, the feed for Missouri is at moderator.droughtreporter.unl.edu/rssfeed/MO.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency provide funds for the Drought Impact Reporter.

USDA to Help Producers Prepare for Addition of Seed Cotton to Two Key Safety Net Programs

Educational Tool Now Available for Farms with Generic Base Acres That Planted Seed Cotton

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sending acreage history and yield reports to agricultural producers with generic base acres covered by the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\) programs](#). The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 amended the 2014 Farm Bill, adding seed cotton as a covered commodity under the ARC and PLC programs. The Act also authorizes owners of a farm with generic base acres and a recent history of covered commodities a one-time opportunity to update the farm’s payment yield for seed cotton.

The updates are an important part of preparing agricultural producers to make decisions on allocating generic basic acres and updating yields for seed cotton. A new tool is now available to assist them in understanding how the new seed cotton program may affect their FSA payments. It helps a producer make decisions on how to allocate generic base acres to other covered crops based on a producer’s planting history.

The educational tool can be viewed at <https://www.afpc.tamu.edu/tools/cotton-base>.

Developed by Texas A&M University, the tool is for educational purposes only, and by using the tool, it is agreed that the results are not a guarantee of future FSA program parameters or payments. Users also acknowledge that this tool is provided with absolutely no warranty, without even the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

Complete details are available by reading the [Notice](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/arcplc50.pdf) (https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/arcplc50.pdf) or by contacting your State or County FSA office (<http://offices.usda.gov>).

All producers electing to participate in either the ARC or PLC program will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election, choosing between price protection and county revenue protection for the 2018 crop year for seed cotton only. Producers who elected ARC with the individual farm option will continue with that option since that election is applicable to all base acre on the farm. The final step to participate requires producers with farms with seed cotton base acres to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for 2018 this summer.

The anticipated timeline is:

- June 29: Producers are mailed letters notifying them of current generic base acres and yields and 2008 to 2012 planting history.
- July: An online decision tool for ARC and PLC becomes available. Producers have opportunity to update yields and allocate generic base acres for ARC and PLC.
- Late July: ARC and PLC one-time elections occur for seed cotton.
- Late July: ARC and PLC sign-up for 2018 starts for farms with seed cotton base acres.

For more information, contact your local Farm Service Agency. To find an FSA office near you, visit: <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Nominations Open for the 2018 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in local County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

All nomination forms for the 2018 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2018. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

CRP Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants can utilize routine grazing and managed harvesting as outlined in their conservation plan. Managed harvesting and routine grazing are authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover.

Managed harvesting for hay and routine grazing is authorized no more frequently than one in three years.

Under normal conditions, managed haying and routine grazing can be requested at the local FSA office by the landowner or producer on the CRP contract. The same acreage cannot be hayed and grazed.

CRP acres must be considered fully established before haying or grazing can be authorized. In addition, haying or grazing CRP acres is not authorized during the primary nesting season. For Missouri, the primary nesting season is May 1 through July 15. Producer must request approval before haying or grazing the acreage.

For routine grazing, the authorization expires September 30 and all livestock must be **removed by September 30**. CRP participants must report the number of acres grazed to FSA by no later than October 10.

Before grazing eligible acreage, CRP participants must request approval and obtain a modified conservation plan to include routine grazing requirements. CRP participants are not permitted to graze any acreage hayed or grazed under managed or emergency provisions. Participants must report the number of acres routine grazed by Oct. 10, 2018.

For haying, the authorization expires September 30 and all hay bales must be **completely removed** from CRP contract acres by no later than October 30. CRP participants must report the number of acres hayed to FSA by no later than October 10. Haying is limited to one cutting.

Routine grazing and managed harvesting will result in an annual rental payment reduction of no less than 25 percent based on the number of acres actually grazed or harvested. Producers who qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher, who are grazing CRP acres, will not be assessed a payment reduction. This waiver only applies to routine grazing.

Eligible producers who are interested in haying or grazing CRP under the emergency authorization and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for haying or grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval to hay or graze eligible acreage from FSA and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to include haying or grazing requirements. Contact your local FSA office for specific information related to emergency haying or grazing.

All hayed and grazed acres are subject to FSA spot-check at any time during or after the authorization period.

It is important to contact your local FSA office prior to any haying or grazing activities on CRP acres to ensure your contract remains in compliance.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$100,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for July 2018	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.875%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.875%
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)	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	3.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.250%

Dates to Remember	
May 1- July 15	Primary nesting season for Missouri. No maintenance (mowing, spraying, burning or disking) on CRP acreage.
July 16	Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other crops. NAP crops must be reported by the final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.
August 1	Final date to request a reconstitution – combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.
August 1	Enrollment for 2018 ARC and PLC program ends.
August 1	Final date to file County Committee nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

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).