

June 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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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.

A Note from Your State Executive Director

Eat a Hearty Breakfast... and Add a Few Blueberries

Although I love breakfast food, I do not normally eat breakfast during the week. Furthermore, I am not an avid fan of blueberries. But since my wife frequently highlights the benefits of blueberries, I include them in my evening yogurt snack, which was another one of her suggestions! My recommendation of a hearty, nutritious breakfast is to prepare us for the foreseeable workload for this year. Implementing a new Farm Bill will require added cognitive energy. The 2019 Disaster Bill will add new programs and fund current programs. Now top this recipe off with another Market Facilitation Program. Missouri FSA is already having a very busy this year.

I want to say "Thank You" in advance for the required extra effort needed to complete our program schedule this year. The workload will be substantial, and producer attitudes will be tested from the disaster conditions.

The area affected by flood disaster continues to grow across our state. I was able to take a brief helicopter tour of the Missouri River flooding in Saline county last week. The sight of isolated farmsteads was very sobering. The sight of many sandbags lining levees which were left high and dry because a break occurred elsewhere left me disheartened, especially, when I learned these producers have been sandbagging since March. Big, nutritious breakfasts will also be beneficial to producers, who are tasked to accomplish the extra workload of 2019.

Best Regards,

Brent Hampy
FSA State Executive Director

Don't Forget to Report Planted, Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

If you're done planting, now's the time to stop by your local FSA office to report your crops. The deadline to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, forage, grain sorghum, hay, hybrid corn seed, pasture, popcorn, rice, soybeans and all other crops is July 15.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA). Contact your local FSA office for a list of final planting dates by crop.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form *CCC-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres. Failed acreage should be timely reported prior to a subsequent crop being planted.

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Some FSA offices may request that producers schedule an appointment for acreage reporting. Please check with your local county office to see if an appointment is necessary, or for any questions.

New Dairy Margin Coverage Signup Begins June 17

Signup begins June 17 for the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program, the cornerstone program of the dairy safety net that helps dairy producers manage the volatility of milk and feed prices, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The 2018 Farm Bill allowed USDA to construct the new DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). This new program offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

The program provides coverage retroactive to January 1, 2019, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment. At the time of signup, dairy producers can choose between the \$4.00 to \$9.50 coverage levels. [Learn more about coverage levels and premiums.](#)

The Farm Bill also allows producers who participated in MPP-Dairy from 2014-2017 [to receive a repayment or credit for part of the premiums paid into the program](#). FSA has been providing

premium reimbursements to producers since last month and those that elect the 75 percent credit option will now have that credit applied toward 2019 DMC premiums.

The Department has built in a 50 percent blend of premium and supreme alfalfa hay prices with the alfalfa hay price used under the prior dairy program to provide a total feed cost that more closely aligns with hay rations used by many producers. At a milk margin minus feed cost of \$9.50 or less, payments are possible. With the 50 percent hay blend, FSA's revised April 2019 income over feed cost margin is \$8.82 per hundredweight (cwt). The revised margins for January, February and March are, respectively, \$7.71, \$7.91 and \$8.66 – triggering DMC payments for each month.

DMC payments will be reduced by 6.2 percent in 2019 because of a sequester order required by Congress and issued in accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DMC offers catastrophic coverage at no cost to the producer, other than an annual \$100 administrative fee. Producers can opt for greater coverage levels for a premium in addition to the administrative fee. Operations owned by limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers may be eligible for a waiver on administrative fees. Producers have the choice to lock in coverage levels until 2023 and receive a 25-percent discount on their DMC premiums.

To assist producers in making coverage elections, USDA partnered with the University of Wisconsin to develop a [DMC decision support tool](#), which can be used to evaluate various scenarios using different coverage levels through DMC.

All dairy operations in the United States are eligible for the DMC program. An operation can be run either by a single producer or multiple producers who commercially produce and market cows' milk.

Eligible dairy operations must have a production history determined by FSA. For most operations, production history is based on the highest milk production in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Newer dairy operations have other options for determining production history. Producers may contact their local FSA office to get their verified production history.

Dairy producers also are reminded that 2018 Farm Bill provisions allow for dairy operation to participate in both FSA's DMC program and the Risk Management Agency's [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM-Dairy\)](#) program. There are also no restrictions from participating in DMC in conjunction with any other RMA insurance products.

For more information, visit [farmers.gov DMC webpage](#) or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](#).

Dairy Producers Encouraged to Participate in Upcoming Webinar Regarding New Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program

To assist producers in learning more about the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program changes, specialists from Missouri FSA and University of Missouri-Extension will conduct a live webinar from **Noon to 1:00 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2019.**

Producers can join the webinar directly by clicking the following link:

<https://mizzou.zoom.us/j/5738829339>

A conference line will also be available for producers to dial in by phone and listen to the presentation.

Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 5738829339

A link to the recorded webinar will be available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo following the live presentation.

The following locations will also be open to producers to come and view the webinar on **June 17**:

- Buchanan County USDA Service Center, 3915 Oakland Ave., St. Joseph, MO, 64506
- Henry County USDA Service Center, 1306 N. 2nd St., Clinton, MO 64735
- Knox County USDA Service Center, 56187 State Highway 6, Edina, MO 63537
- Cape Girardeau County USDA Service Center, 480 West Jackson Trail, Jackson, MO 63755
- USDA Training Room, 601 Business Loop 70 W., Parkade Center Suite 233 Columbia, MO, 65203
- MU Southwest Research Center, 14548 Highway H, Mt. Vernon, MO, 65712
- Wright County Extension Center, 608 East State Street, Mountain Grove, MO 65711
- Franklin County Extension Meeting Room, 102 Union Plaza Drive, Union, MO 63084

FSA staff and program specialists will be available to answer questions regarding the new program. All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office before the enrollment period ends.

Person with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these functions should contact Jessica Claypole at 573-876-0935 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 at least three days prior to the event.

Continuous CRP Signup Underway

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently accepting applications for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. This year's signup will include such practices as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices](#) approved for this program.

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates. Incentive payments will not be offered for these contracts.

A one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options.

Producers interested in applying for continuous CRP practices, or who need an extension, should contact their USDA service center immediately. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

USDA Offers Flood Impacted Missouri Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

Farm Service Agency Stands Ready to Assist Agricultural Producers Slammed by Recent Heavy Rains

Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers across the state of federal farm program benefits that may be available to help eligible producers recover from recent heavy rains and flooding.

FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs and loans 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 2019 crops.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados lightening, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disaster.
- **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. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the **producer's** eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes. ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters.
- **Emergency Loan Program** – Available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous **Secretarial Disaster designation**. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.
- **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/ or contact your local FSA Office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

Nominations Open for the 2019 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 the 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 landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2019. 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: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Higher Limits Now Available on USDA 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 June 2019

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.375%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.500%
Commodity Loans (1996-Present)	3.375%

Dates to Remember

May 1 - July 15, 2019	Primary nesting season for Missouri. No maintenance (mowing, spraying, burning or disking) on CRP acreage.
June 14, 2019	Nomination period begins for 2019 County Committee elections.
July 4, 2019	Independence Day Holiday. USDA offices are closed.
July 15, 2019	Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, forage, grain sorghum, hay, hybrid corn seed, pasture, popcorn, rice, soybeans and all other crops. NAP crops must be reported by the final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.

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).