

April 2016



# NEWSLETTER

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## Missouri FSA Newsletter

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### Missouri Farm Service Agency

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

### State Committee:

Stephen Burke  
Kenneth Hensley  
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Sam Schaumann  
Aaron Whelan

### State Executive Director:

Mark Cadle

Please [contact](#) your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Check out our [State Events](#) page for upcoming agricultural events.

### Crop Reporting Time is Around the Corner

Don't forget to stop by your local FSA office to report your crops. The following crop certification dates are quickly approaching in Missouri:

**May 15, 2016:** Spring oats and potatoes.

**July 15, 2016:** CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other crops.

Please note: November 15, 2015, was the final reporting date for 2016 pasture, rangeland, forage & apiculture.

If the 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. If additional acreage is acquired after the final reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after the purchase or acquisition of a new lease.

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

The Missouri FSA staff hopes you have a safe planting season!

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## Final Planting Dates

All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on the [final planting date](#) for specific crops. These dates vary by crop, planting period and county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific planting deadlines or visit the [RMA website](#). The timely planting of a crop, by the final planting date, may prevent loss of program benefits.

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## USDA Expands Safety-Net for Dairy Operations Adding Next-Generation Family Members

Dairy farms participating in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) can now update their production history when an eligible family member joins the operation. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, protects participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below levels of protection selected by the applicant.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) published a final rule which makes these changes effective on April 13, 2016. Any dairy operation already enrolled in the Margin Protection Program that had an intergenerational transfer occur will have an opportunity to increase the dairy operations production history during the 2017 registration and annual coverage election period. The next election period begins on July 1, 2016, and ends on Sept. 30, 2016. For intergenerational transfers occurring on or after July 1, 2016, notification must be made to the FSA within 60 days of purchasing the additional cows. Each participating dairy operation is authorized one intergenerational transfer at any time of its choosing until 2018.

For \$100 a year, dairy producers can receive basic catastrophic protection that covers 90 percent of milk production at a \$4 margin coverage level. For additional premiums, operations can protect 25 to 90 percent of production history with margin coverage levels from \$4.50 to \$8, in 50 cent increments. Annual enrollment in the program is required in order to receive margin protection. The final rule also provides improved risk protection for dairy farmers that pay premiums to buy-up higher levels of coverage by clarifying that 90 percent of production is covered below the \$4 level even if a lower percentage was selected above the \$4 margin.

Earlier this year, FSA gave producers the opportunity to pay their premium through additional options including via their milk cooperative or handler. This rule facilitates those options and also clarifies that the catastrophic level protection at \$4 will always cover 90 percent of the production history, even if a producer selected a less than a 90 percent percentage for the buy-up coverage.

Assuming current participation, had the Margin Protection Program existed from 2009 to 2014, premiums and fees would have totaled \$500 million while providing producers with \$2.5 billion in financial assistance, nearly \$1 billion more than provided by the old Milk Income Loss Contract program during the same period.

For more information, visit FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy) or stop by a local FSA office and ask about the Margin Protection Program. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Changing Administrative Counties

Producers who wish to transfer their farm records to a different administrative county for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 must file a request no later than August 1, 2016. Restrictions do apply when transferring to an office other than the county in which the land is physically located. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

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## Youth Loans

County fairs will be starting before we know it. Did you know that FSA makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups? Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by your local county office to learn more.

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## ARC, PLC and CTAP Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or the Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) 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. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC, PLC or CTAP, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

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## USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack established the first ever USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs in February 2014 at seven locations around the country to provide more information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on the increasing risks of fires, pests, floods, and droughts associated with a changing climate. For general information on Climate Hubs, [click here](#). Missouri is located in the Midwest Climate Hub region. To learn more about the Midwest Region Climate Hub you can visit <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov>.

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## Value Added Producer Grants Available

**Application Deadline is July 1, 2016**

Approximately \$44 million in funding is available to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities for FY 2016.

The grants help agricultural producers increase their income by expanding marketing opportunities, creating new products or developing new uses for existing products.

The maximum grant award is \$250,000 for working capital and \$75,000 for planning. Planning grants can be used to facilitate economic planning activities to determine the viability of a value-added venture, and may include costs for an independent feasibility study and development of a

marketing and business plan. Working capital grants are used for operational costs directly related to processing and/or marketing of the value-added product.

USDA Rural Development has provided funding for a wide variety of value-added agriculture projects involving locally produced and marketed foods. These include cheese, wine, reduced-cholesterol dairy products, produce, packaged poultry, pork and beef products, and a variety of processed or prepared foods from locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Applications must be submitted to USDA Rural Development by July 1, 2016, in order to be considered for funding.

For more information on the Value Added Producer Grant program, please contact the USDA Rural Development state office at (573) 876-9321 or email [nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov](mailto:nathan.tutt@mo.usda.gov).

## Current Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

| Selected Interest Rates for<br>April 2016                                     |        |
|---|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill  | .250%  |
| Farm Operating Loans —<br>Direct  | 2.25%  |
| Farm Ownership Loans —<br>Direct  | 3.50%  |
| Farm Ownership Loans —<br>Direct Down Payment,<br>Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.50%  |
| Emergency Loans   | 3.25%  |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans<br>(7 years)                                      | 1.625% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans<br>(10 years)                                     | 1.875% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans<br>(12 years)                                     | 2.00%  |
| Commodity Loans 1996-<br>Present  | 1.625% |

| Dates to Remember |   |
|-------------------|---|
| May 1             | NAP application closing date for ornamental nursery.  |
| May 1             | Beginning of the primary nesting season for Missouri. No maintenance on CRP acreage until after July 15.                            |
| May 15            | Final date to report spring oats & potatoes.  |
| May 30            | Memorial Day holiday. FSA offices are closed.   |
| May 31            | Final availability date for 2015 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for feed grains, upland cotton, soybeans & minor oilseeds.       |
| July 15           | Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other crops. |

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).