

December 2015



Missouri FSA Newsletter

*Missouri Farm Service Agency wishes you Happy Holidays!
We look forward to working with you in 2016!*

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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

www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

State Committee:

Stephen Burke
Kenneth Hensley
Sharon Oetting
Sam Schaumann
Aaron Whelan

State Executive Director: Mark Cadle

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

Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up

A general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began Dec. 1, 2015, and will end on Feb. 26, 2016.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion. CRP improves water quality and develops wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

Producers can submit offers for the 49th CRP sign-up at the local FSA county office. Some eligibility requirements include:

- Producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period;
- Land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2008 to 2013, and be physically and legally capable of being planted;

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during the general enrollment period. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2016, may submit offers.

Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

December 2015 Marks 30th Anniversary for the Nation's Most Successful Voluntary Conservation Program

December 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of CRP. As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in CRP. CRP also is protecting more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world 7 times. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories from across the U.S., visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30, or follow on Twitter at #CRPis30.

Since it was established on Dec. 23, 1985, CRP has:

- Prevented more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks;
- Reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively;
- Sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.

Since 1996, CRP has created nearly 2.7 million acres of restored wetlands.

For more information FSA conservation programs, visit a local FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2016 Acreage Reporting Dates for Barley, Wheat & Other Fall Seeded Small Grains

All producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report.

The following acreage reporting date is approaching for Missouri:

December 15, 2015: 2016 fall barley, fall wheat & all other fall-seeded small grains

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Reports of **Prevented Planting Acreage** must be filed with the county office no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for that county. [Click here](#) for final planting dates for Missouri.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

2016 ARC and PLC Enrollment Period Begins Dec. 7

Producers with Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) farms can begin visiting FSA county offices starting Dec. 7, 2015, to sign contracts for 2016. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2016.

Producers must enroll their farm by signing a contract each year.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc or visit your local FSA office.

Reminder - County Committee Elections Close Dec. 7

The 2015 FSA County Committee election ballots must be returned to your local FSA office by Dec. 7, 2015.

Ballots were mailed the beginning of November and include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. FSA has modified the ballot, making it more easily identifiable and less likely to be overlooked. Voters who did not receive a ballot can pick one up at the local FSA office. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2015. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2016.

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. You may also contact your local FSA office.

New USDA Commitments to Help Build Up Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers

USDA announced a commitment to prioritize \$5.6 billion over the next two years within its programs and services that serve new and beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA also launched a new, tailored web tool designed to connect burgeoning farm entrepreneurs with programs and resources available to help them get started.

The new web tool is available at www.usda.gov/newfarmers. The site was designed based on feedback from new and beginning farmers and ranchers around the country, who cited unfamiliarity with programs and resources as a challenge to starting and expanding their operations. The site features advice and guidance on everything a new farm business owner needs to know, from writing a business plan, to obtaining a loan to grow their business, to filing taxes as a new small business owner. By answering a series of questions about their operation, farmers can use the site's Discovery Tool to build a personalized set of recommendations of USDA programs and services that may meet their needs.

This announcement builds on USDA's ongoing work to engage its resources to inspire a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building market opportunities; extending conservation opportunities; offering appropriate risk management tools; and

increasing outreach and technical support. To learn more about USDA's efforts, visit the [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Results Page](#).

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A *notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent*. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 6%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of Services

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

FSA reminds agricultural producers that we provide a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for December 2015	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 7	Final day to return your completed County Committee election ballot.
Dec. 7	2016 ARC/PLC enrollment begins and continues through Aug. 1, 2016.
Dec. 15	Final date to report fall barley, fall wheat & all other fall-seeded small grains.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA offices are closed.
Dec. 31	NAP application closing date for potatoes.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA offices are closed.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).