



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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State Executive Director: Barry Calogero

Farm Loan Chief: Kevin Murphy

Visit the New Jersey FSA website for more information at www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Deadlines

Sept. 20 - 2019 DMC enrollment and premium due.

Sept. 30

- NAP Coverage Deadline for Small Grains, Grasses, Mixed Forage, and Garlic
- Acreage Reporting Deadline value loss crops except nursery for the Subsequent Crop Year

See all our regular program deadlines here: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Jersey/state-events/index

ARCPLC cont...

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University are offering web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. These decision tools can be found at fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some forms of crop insurance. Producers who elect and enroll in PLC also have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers of covered commodities who elect ARC are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our program fact sheet or our 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet, or visit fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

USDA invests in energy efficiency to help farmers

Investments will help farmers, rural businesses, producers lower energy costs

Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator Bette Brand announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is awarding grants for projects in all states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to reduce energy costs (PDF, 216 KB) for farmers, ag producers and rural-based businesses and institutions.

"Lowering energy costs helps rural businesses improve their bottom line and create jobs," Brand said. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to increasing economic development in America's rural communities through strong partnerships because when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

Under today's announcement, USDA is investing \$9.3 million through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across the nation. Congress appropriated \$50 million for REAP grants and loan guarantees in fiscal year 2019. USDA will make additional funding announcements in the REAP program in coming weeks.

Recipients can use REAP funding for a variety of needs, such as conducting energy audits and installing renewable energy systems such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower and solar. Funds also can be used to make energy efficiency improvements to heating, ventilation and cooling

systems; insulation; and lighting and refrigeration. Listed below are a few examples of how farmers, rural business owners and institutions are making investments in their operations through REAP.

- In Soldotna, Alaska, River City Books will use a \$13,525 REAP grant to build a 15-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on the roof of its bookstore. This project is expected to lower the store's electricity costs by an estimated \$3,800 annually. The energy saved by this project is enough to power 2.5 homes for a year.
- Copper Cricket Farm LLC in Machipongo, Va., will use an \$8,172 grant to purchase and install a 11.06-kilowatt, roof-mounted solar array. The farm produces vegetables, fruits and flowers in Northampton County, Va. This project will make the farm energy self-sufficient.
- Tony Dwyer's Logging LLC in St. Johnsbury, Vt., will use a \$12,465 REAP grant to install a more efficient kiln drying system for a firewood producer. Tony Dwyer's Logging produces high-quality, kiln-dried firewood. The new kiln, which will run on propane, will reduce the cost of processing a cord of wood by 40 percent.
- In Albany, Ore., Spring Hill Organic Farm will use a \$10,915 REAP grant to purchase and install a renewable energy system. The farm raises a variety of organic vegetables for commercial resale. This project will generate more than 27,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity per year. The 25-kilowatt solar array will replace 39 percent of the farm's energy use and reduce its utility bill by more than \$3,000 per year.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Supporting the rural workforce was a cornerstone recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

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## 2019 Enrollment Deadline for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program Is Sept. 20

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds dairy producers that the deadline to enroll in the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program for 2019 is Sept. 20, 2019.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, the program offers reasonably priced 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.

As the 2019 enrollment period draws to a close, FSA estimates over \$257.7 million in payments to producers who are currently registered. Also, nearly half of the producers are taking advantage of the 25 percent premium discount by locking in for five years of margin protection coverage. FSA has launched a new web visualization of the DMC data, which is [available here](#).

Margin payments have triggered for each month from January through July. Dairy producers who elect higher coverage levels could be eligible for payments for all seven months. Under certain levels, the amount paid to dairy farmers will exceed the cost of the premium.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll for 2019 an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$15,437.50 in DMC payments for all margin payments announced to date. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level for any remaining months of 2019.

### Enrollment for 2020

For 2020, dairy producers can sign up for coverage under DMC beginning Oct. 7 through Dec. 13, 2019. At the time of sign-up, dairy producers can choose between the \$4.00 to \$9.50 coverage levels.

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.

Producers who locked in coverage in the 2019 sign-up must certify the operation is producing and commercially marketing milk and pay the annual administrative fee during the 2020 enrollment period.

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.

### 2019 Retroactive Intergenerational Transfers

Participating dairy operations who had an intergenerational transfer between 2014 and 2019 will have a one-time opportunity to increase their established production history during the 2019 and 2020 annual coverage election periods. Retroactive payments based on the increased production history will apply for 2019 and not prior years.

A dairy operation may add to their approved production history for an intergenerational transfer when a spouse, child or grandchild join a participating dairy operation. Non-linear relatives, such as siblings, cousins, nieces or nephews, that join the operation will not be eligible for a production history increase.

The increase to the established production history of the participating dairy operation will be determined based on multiplying both the national rolling herd average data for the current year in effect at the time of the intergenerational transfer and the quantity of cows purchased by the joining family member within 60 days of joining the dairy operation. For an intergenerational transfer to be recognized by FSA, the requesting dairy operation will meet all eligibility requirements including an ownership provision for those entering the business.

Applications for an intergenerational transfer must be submitted by Dec. 6, 2019, for approval by the local FSA county committee, to be eligible for the increased production history effective on January 1, 2019.

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

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## USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for New Jersey Farmers Hurt by 2018, 2019 Disasters

Agricultural producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019 can apply through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Sign-up for this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program began Sept. 11

### WHIP+ Eligibility

WHIP+ will be available for eligible producers who have suffered eligible losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only). Disaster losses must have been a result of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires that occurred in

2018 or 2019. Also, producers in counties that did not receive a disaster declaration or designation may still apply for WHIP+ but must provide supporting documentation to establish that the crops were directly affected by a qualifying disaster loss.

A list of counties that received qualifying disaster declarations and designations is available at [farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus](https://farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus). Because grazing and livestock losses, other than milk losses, are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, those losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) Actuarial Information Browser at [webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser](https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser).

The WHIP+ payment factor ranges from 75 percent to 95 percent, depending on the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2018 or 2019 will receive 70 percent of the expected value of the crop. Insured crops (either crop insurance or NAP coverage) will receive between 75 percent and 95 percent of expected value; those who purchased the highest levels of coverage will receive 95-percent of the expected value.

At the time of sign-up, producers will be asked to provide verifiable and reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, WHIP+ payments will be determined based on the lower of either the actual loss certified by the producer and determined acceptable by FSA or the county expected yield and county disaster yield. The county disaster yield is the production that a producer would have been expected to make based on the eligible disaster conditions in the county.

WHIP+ payments for 2018 disasters will be eligible for 100 percent of their calculated value. WHIP+ payments for 2019 disasters will be limited to an initial 50 percent of their calculated value, with an opportunity to receive up to the remaining 50 percent after January 1, 2020, if sufficient funding remains.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for WHIP+. But all producers receiving WHIP+ payments will be required to purchase crop insurance or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available, consecutive crop years after the crop year for which WHIP+ payments were paid. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable, consecutive years will be required to pay back the WHIP+ payment.

Additional information about WHIP+ program eligibility and payment limitations can be found at [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover) or by contacting your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.usda.gov/service-center).

### **Additional Loss Coverage**

The Milk Loss Program will provide payments to eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market because of a qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disaster. Producers who suffered losses of harvested commodities, including hay, stored in on-farm structures in 2018 and 2019 will receive assistance through the On-Farm Storage Loss Program.

Additionally, producers with trees, bushes or vines can receive both cost-share assistance through FSA's Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for the cost of replanting and rehabilitating eligible trees and WHIP+ will provide payments based on the loss value of the tree, bush or vine itself. Therefore, eligible producers may receive both a TAP and a 2017 WHIP or WHIP+ payment for the same acreage. In addition, TAP policy has been updated to assist eligible orchardists or nursery tree growers of pecan trees with a tree mortality rate that exceeds 7.5 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) but is less than 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) for losses incurred during 2018.

Additionally, the disaster relief measure expanded coverage of the 2017 WHIP to include losses from Tropical Storm Cindy, and peach and blueberry crop losses that resulted from extreme cold.

### **Prevented Planting**

Agricultural producers faced significant challenges planting crops in 2019 in many parts of the country. All producers with flooding or excess moisture-related prevented planting insurance claims in calendar year 2019 will receive a prevented planting supplemental disaster ("bonus") payment equal to 10 percent of their prevented planting indemnity, plus an additional 5 percent will be provided to those who purchased harvest price option coverage.

As under 2017 WHIP, WHIP+ will provide prevented planting assistance to uninsured producers, NAP producers and producers who may have been prevented from planting an insured crop in the 2018 crop year and those 2019 crops that had a final planting date prior to January 1, 2019.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local [USDA service center](https://www.usda.gov/service-center) or visit [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover). For all available USDA disaster assistance programs, go to [USDA's disaster resources website](https://www.usda.gov/disaster-resources).

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## **USDA Designates Burlington County, New Jersey, as a Primary Natural Disaster Area**

*Emergency Support to Producers in Surrounding New Jersey counties of Atlantic, Camden, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Also Available.*

**All New Jersey Disaster Declarations and Emergency loan deadlines can be seen on our state website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nj](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj)**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 2019 — Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue designated Burlington County, New Jersey, as a primary natural disaster area. Producers who suffered losses due to excessive rain, flash flooding, and flooding that occurred April 1, 2019, through June 21, 2019, may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) [emergency loans](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/emergency-loans).

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous New Jersey counties of Atlantic, Camden, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean, along with Bucks and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 29, 2020.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/emergency-assistance-for-livestock-honeybees-and-farm-raised-fish-program); [Emergency Conservation Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/emergency-conservation-program); [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/livestock-forage-disaster-program); [Livestock Indemnity Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/livestock-indemnity-program); [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/operating-and-farm-ownership-loans); and the [Tree Assistance Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tree-assistance-program).

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover).

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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).