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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New York State FSA Newsletter

New York State Farm Service Agency

441 S. Salina St.
Suite #536
Syracuse, NY 13202

www.fsa.usda.gov/ny

State Executive Director:
Clark Putman

State Committee:
Judi Whittaker, Chair
Michael Bittel
Lawrence Eckhardt
Theodore Furber
Barbara Hanselman

Executive Officer:
Mark Dennis

Farm Program Chief:
Vacant

Farm Loan Chief:
John Liddington

To find contact information for
your local office go

New State Executive Director Named

Clark Putman was appointed by the Trump Administration to serve as the state executive director of the New York USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in November 2017.

Putman was born and raised on a dairy farm in Heuvelton, New York. He attended SUNY Morrisville, earning his associate degree in agribusiness, and Cornell University, earning his bachelor's degree in applied economics and farm management.

Putman and his wife, Nancy, own and operate their family dairy farm. They have two children who also love farming. Their farm has received the Dairy of Distinction award. They have also received multiple Super Milk awards, which is an award is given to New York farmers that meet superior milk quality standards.

He began his career with FSA in 1988, as a county operations trainee. He served as the county executive director of Oswego County from 1989 to 1990. Putnam most recently served as the county executive director of St. Lawrence County from 1990 to 2017.

Additionally, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced the individuals who will serve on the New York USDA Farm Service Agency state committee. The state committee is responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving appeals from the agriculture community, and helping to keep producers informed about FSA

to www.fsa.usda.gov/ny

programs. They are:

- Judi Whittaker, Committee Chair – Broome County
- Michael Bittel – Washington County
- Lawrence Eckhardt – Rensselaer County
- Theodore Furber – Wayne County
- Barbara Hanselman – Delaware County

Dates To Remember

February 1

NAP coverage application deadline for beets, burdock, chicory, greens, herbs, leeks, lettuce, onions, radicchio, radishes, scallions, shallots, and turnips

February 19

All offices closed for Washington's Birthday

March 15

NAP coverage application deadline for most spring planted fruits and vegetables

March 31

Marketing Assistance Loans Deadline for prior year harvested wheat, barley and oats

Deadlines Approaching for FSA Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

Livestock producers are reminded that deadline for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) are quickly approaching.

Producers with eligible livestock losses must submit a LIP application for payment by **March 31, 2018**. 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.

For 2017, eligible LIP losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack. 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 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

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

Please contact to your local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for LIP benefits.

The Census of Agriculture is a Producer's Voice, Future, and Opportunity.

In December farmers and ranchers across the nation received the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Producers can mail in their completed census form, or respond online via the improved web questionnaire. The online questionnaire has been revised extensively to make it more convenient for producers.

Conducted once every five years, the census of agriculture is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them; it is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation.

Farmers and ranchers, trade associations, government, extension educators, researchers, and many others rely on census of agriculture data when making decisions that shape American agriculture – from creating and funding farm programs to boosting services for communities and the industry. The census of agriculture is a producer's voice, future, and opportunity.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

USDA Announces a Near-Record Year for Farm Loans

Infusing Rural Communities with Stronger Businesses and Sounder Agricultural Economies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced another year of high activity in its farm loan programs. Hard-working farm families across the country accessed nearly \$6 billion in new credit, either directly or guaranteed through commercial lenders in 2017. At year end, FSA was assisting more than 120,000 family farmers with loans totaling just over \$25 billion.

FSA provides a variety of loan assistance, including direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans, operating loans and even direct Microloans up to \$50,000 and EZ Guarantees up to \$100,000 with streamlined application processes.

More than 25,000 direct and guaranteed FSA loans went to beginning or underserved farmers and ranchers. Over 4,200 beginning farmers received direct farm ownership loans from FSA to make their first land purchase. And of the approximately 6,500 Microloans made in the last fiscal year, three-quarters (almost 4,900) went to beginning farmers, 1,000 went to women and 400 to veterans.

FSA's direct farm loans are unique in that the agency provides technical assistance in addition to credit. Consistent with efforts to continually improve technical assistance, today FSA announced the publication of two booklets that will serve as important informational tools and resources for existing and prospective farm loan borrowers.

Your FSA Farm Loan Compass booklet was recently developed specifically for farmers and ranchers who have an existing farm loan with FSA. It provides detailed guidance outlining borrower responsibilities and the servicing options that FSA offers. It also addresses common questions borrowers may have as they navigate through loan program requirements and the financial concepts involved.

Originally published in 2012, **Your Guide to FSA Farm Loans** was designed for new loan customers. It provides information about the various types of farm loans available and guides new borrowers through the application process. The revised version addresses program changes and includes new loan offerings, like the popular Microloan program that was rolled out after the publication of the original Guide.

"Your FSA Farm Loan Compass" and "Your Guide to FSA Farm Loans" are available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to download and share them with others in their community who may require assistance in understanding FSA's loans and servicing processes. For additional information about FSA farm loans, please contact your loan officer or other FSA staff at your local office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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:

- Grain Crops

- Malted Small Grains
- Pulse Crops
- Hay & Forages
- Fruits, Nuts & Vegetables
- Milk, Butter, Cheese & Yogurt
- Meat, Poultry (unprocessed) & Eggs
- Honey
- Maple sap & syrup
- Hops
- Floriculture
- Renewable biomass crops
- Some Aquaculture

ELIGIBLE Facilities & Upgrades include:

- Grain Bins & Cribs, including drying and handling equipment
- Hay Storage, including pole barns
- Silage Bunks
- Cold Storage, including handling, washing & packing equipment
- Refrigeration/freezer units
- Milk Houses & Equipment, including bulk milk tanks
- Sap Tanks
- New & Used Trucks, including refrigerated trucks

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. 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>.

Guaranteed Conservation Loans

Guaranteed Conservation Loans are available for applicants to install a conservation practice. These funds may be used for any conservation activities included in a conservation plan or Forest Stewardship Management plan. A copy of the conservation plan is required to complete the application. These loans are not limited to just family farmers. In some cases, applicants can operate non-eligible enterprises. Loan funds are issued by a participating commercial lender and guaranteed up to 80 percent by FSA or up to 90 percent for beginning and historically underserved producers.

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).
