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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

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Trade Mitigation Programs

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

USDA [provided details in August](#) of the programs to be employed. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted.

The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. MFP provides payments to cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A

Farm Loan Chief:
John Liddington

second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ny

Market Facilitation Program

Commodity	Est. Initial Payment**	Initial Payment Rate (in \$1,000s)
Cotton	\$0.06/lb.	\$276,900
Corn	\$0.01/bu.	\$96,000
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12/cwt.	\$127,400
Pork (hogs)	\$8.00/head	\$290,300
Soybeans	\$1.65/bu.	\$3,629,700
Sorghum	\$0.86/bu.	\$156,800
Wheat	\$0.14/bu.	\$119,200
Total		\$4,696,300

**Initial payment rate on 50% of production

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For more further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov

Webinar Offered on Sept, 26th, About Pasture and Forage Crop Insurance Program

Some farmers have experienced reduced hay yields or pasture regrowth due to drier-than-normal weather. The [Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage \(PRF\) Rainfall Index](#) crop insurance program is an option that may help offset the costs associated with lack of precipitation on grassland.

An online webinar, scheduled Sept. 26, from 12 noon–1 p.m., will include an overview of the program, demonstration of a tool that shows historical precipitation by grid, and a farmer's perspective on the program. Speakers include Cornell Cooperative Extension agricultural educator Keith Severson, and Leon Ripley, farmer and owner of Maple Corner Farm, Granville, Massachusetts.

The webinar is for those who want to learn more about the program before the Nov. 15 enrollment deadline.

The program is free; registration is required. [Register online](#); 1.0 CEU's will be offered after completion of the webinar. For more information contact Erin Roche, 207.949.2940, erin.roche@maine.edu.

Sponsors include University of Maine Cooperative Extension, University of Massachusetts Extension, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, and Cornell Cooperative Extension with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program Deadline

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of

their certification costs paid from Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. **The deadline to apply for cost share is October 31, 2018.**

Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

Producers and handlers may submit OCCSP applications to FSA county offices or they may apply through participating State Agencies, which will be listed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index> as their agreements to administer the program are finalized.

The FSA OCCSP application form is available at [USDA's eForms site](#), by selecting "Browse forms" and entering "OCCSP" in the "title or keywords" field on the search page.

To learn more about organic certification cost share, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact a local FSA office by visiting <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

What is NY FarmNet?

NY FarmNet offers 100% free, and confidential consulting in:

- Financial analysis and decision making
- Personal well-being
- Business planning
- Business transfers
- Retirement and estate planning
- Interpersonal dynamics and communication

How They Can Help

NY FarmNet can help you identify problems facing your business and family, brainstorm solutions, and evaluate options to develop a plan of action. All consultations are free, and take place in the privacy of your own home.

How They Work

Any farmer in New York can contact 1-800-547-FARM or complete the online web form at www.nyfarmnet.org with basic contact information, farm details, and a brief description of your goals, concerns, or questions. NY FarmNet's staff will respond to you by either starting a case, or referring you to another organization. Once a case has been started, two FarmNet consultants, a financial consultant and a farm family consultant, will contact you directly to schedule a first meeting at your farm. Some cases may be resolved over the phone or with one visit, others may continue for more than a year, free of charge.

NY FarmNet's 1-800-547-FARM (3276) line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is also a webform at www.nyfarmnet.org where farmers can fill out a form requesting NY FarmNet's assistance.

FSA Offers A Wide Range Of Low-Interest Loans

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Your local FSA office staff can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call your local office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA. To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ny

Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage

The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for NAP. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops,

fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

Dates to Remember

October 1 -- NAP Deadline for all grasses, mixed forage, clover & alfalfa

October 1 -- Acreage Reporting Deadline for garlic, Christmas trees, floriculture, aquaculture, ginseng, mushrooms, mollusks, finfish and turf grass sod

October 1 -- NAP Deadline for all fall & spring small grains

October 8 -- All offices closed for Columbus Day

October 31 -- Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Deadline

November 12 -- All offices closed for Veterans Day

November 15 -- Acreage Reporting Deadline for all grasses, mixed forage, clover & alfalfa, and fall planted small grains

November 20 -- NAP Deadline for tree fruits, nut trees and perennial crops

November 22 -- All offices closed for Thanksgiving Day

December 3 -- NAP Deadline for Honey & Maple Sap

December 25 -- All offices closed for Christmas Day

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).

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