

May 2016



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops](#)
- [Filing a Notice of Loss](#)
- [USDA Offers New Loans for Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment](#)
- [Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover](#)
- [Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program](#)
- [Selected Interest Rates for May 2016](#)

Ohio FSA State News and Updates

Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office

200 North High St.
Room 540
Columbus, OH, 43215
Phone: 614-255-2441
FAX: 855-832-5100

State Executive Director:
Steven Maurer

Administrative Officer:
Mimi Garringer

Conservation Chief:
Brandi Koehler

Farm Loan Chief:
David Drake

Price Support Chief:
Carletha Fasching

**Production Adjustment,
Compliance and Risk**

When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application. "Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed," said Steven Maurer, Ohio FSA State Executive Director.

Management Chief:
Matt Kleski

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

State Committee:
Bob Boggs, Chairperson
Bob Cole, member
Bruce Long, member
Jim Rex, member
Jim Zumbrink, member

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

Visit Ohio FSA website for additional information at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

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

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

USDA Offers New Loans for Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment

Portable Equipment Can Help Producers, including Small-Scale and Local Farmers, Get Products to Market Quickly

FSA will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program also offers a new “microloan” option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

Earlier this year, FSA significantly expanded the list of commodities eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan. Eligible commodities now include aquaculture; floriculture; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables; corn, grain sorghum, oilseeds, oats, wheat, triticale, spelt, buckwheat, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas, sugar, barley, rye, hay, honey, hops, maple sap, unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and renewable biomass. FSFL microloans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, view the [FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan fact sheet](#) or visit the FSA county office to learn more about the program.

Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover

In the past, aesthetic mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that properly managed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view properly managed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not be attracted to CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Properly managed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled. This can be done in several ways. Mowing of CRP cover, not to exceed 20% of the total CRP acres in a field, is permitted. This activity must be included in your conservation plan and be conducted outside of Ohio's primary nesting season (**March 1st – July 15th**). The location of this mowing should be changed from year to year. Another option to control noxious weeds is by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Unauthorized disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature. Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Ohio's primary nesting season (**March 1st – July 15th**). Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined in your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan.

Contact the FSA office for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover.

Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms

FSA reminds anyone interested that there is funding available for eligible farmers for low interest loans through FSA's direct farm ownership program.

Eligible producers can borrow up to \$300,000 in direct farm ownership loans to buy or enlarge a farm, construct new farm buildings or improve structures, pay closing costs, or promote soil and

water conservation and protection. The interest rate on select loans can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

New and beginning farmers, military veterans, and underserved farmers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and producers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

To find out more about the FSA direct farm loan program or other loans available, contact your county FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2016

- 90 Day Treasury Bill, -- 0.375%
- Farm Operating Loans, Direct, -- 2.375%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Direct, -- 3.500%
- Limited Resource Loans, -- 5.000%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment, -- 1.500%
- Emergency Loans, -- 3.375%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3 year, -- 0.875%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5 year, -- 1.250%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 year, -- 1.625%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year, -- 1.750%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year, -- 1.875%
- Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year, -- 2.000%
- Commodity Loans, 1996- Present, -- 1.625%

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).