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Ohio FSA State News and Updates

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USDA Announces Safety Net Assistance for Milk Producers Due to Tightening Dairy Margins

May/June 2016 Average Margins Below \$6

USDA announced approximately \$11.2 million in financial assistance to American dairy producers enrolled in the 2016 Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). The payment rate for May/June 2016 will be the largest since the program began in 2014. The narrowing margin between milk prices and the cost of feed triggered the payments, as provided for by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Dairy producers should evaluate their enrollment options for 2017, as the enrollment period ends Sept. 30, 2016.

Dairy producers who enrolled at the \$6 through \$8 margin trigger coverage level will receive payments. MPP-Dairy payments are triggered when the national average margin (the difference between the price of milk and the cost of feed) falls below a level of coverage selected by the dairy producer, ranging from \$4 to \$8, for a specified consecutive two-month period. All final USDA prices for milk and feed components required to determine the national average margin for May/June 2016 were released on July 29, 2016.

The national average margin for the May/June 2016 two-month consecutive period is \$5.76277 per hundred weight (cwt.).

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

State specific payment amounts can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy.

To learn more about the Margin Protection Program for dairy, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy or stop by your FSA County office. Producers may visit www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation.

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

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

Farmers Encouraged to Report Crop Losses and Low Yields to FSA

With the continued hot dry weather conditions throughout Ohio, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to document and report crop losses or low crop yields to their local FSA office.

Producers with crops covered by crop insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Low yield acreage does need to be reported and producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. In addition, farmers are encouraged to report crop conditions to their county FSA offices so that the information may be used to support the potential request for a disaster declaration.

If you have additional questions about failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) contact your local FSA office.

FSA Reminds Producers of Approaching NAP Deadlines for 2017 Crops

FSA reminds producers who are interested in the 2017 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), of the need to apply for coverage by the following crop deadline dates.

- **August 31, 2016** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on value loss crops such as for aquaculture, Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, turfgrass sod and watercress.
- **September 4, 2016** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on nursery and ornamental nursery.
- **October 1, 2016** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on winter wheat, rye, barley and speltz.
- **November 20, 2016** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap and hops. NOTE: Hops is a perennial crop and the application deadline moved from spring to fall for coverage.

- **March 15, 2017** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, Soybeans, Sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The 2014 Farm Bill provides greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. The expanded protection is especially helpful to beginning and socially disadvantaged producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium reductions for expanded coverage.

Eligible producers can apply for 2017 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. The service fee for basic NAP coverage is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Producers interested in buy-up coverage must pay a premium, in addition to the service fee. The maximum premium will be \$6,564.

Producer meeting the definition of a socially disadvantaged farmer, beginning farmer or limited resource farmer will have service fees waived. Producers meeting this definition that choose to purchase buy-up coverage will also have service fees waived and the premium will be capped at \$3,282.

To help producers learn more about the NAP program and how it can help them, USDA, offers an online Web tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap. The webtool allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage and gives producers an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation.

For more information on NAP coverage or obtain coverage, please contact your [FSA County office](#).

USDA Financial Assistance Available to Help Organic Farmers Create Conservation Buffers

USDA is assisting organic farmers with the cost of establishing up to 20,000 acres of new conservation buffers and other practices on and near farms that produce organic crops.

The financial assistance is available from the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

For conservation buffers, funds are available for establishing shrubs and trees, or supporting pollinating species through establishing a grass and/or wildlife mixture that can be planted in blocks or strips. Interested organic producers can offer eligible land for enrollment in this initiative at any time.

Other USDA FSA programs that assist organic farmers include:

- The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program that provides financial assistance for 55 to 100 percent of the average market price for organic crop losses between 50 to 65 percent of expected production due to a natural disaster.
- Marketing assistance loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell crops during harvest when market prices are low, and deficiency payments to producers who forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity.

- A variety of loans for operating expenses, ownership or guarantees with outside lenders, including streamlined microloans that have a lower amount of paperwork.
- Farm Storage Facility Loans for that provide low-interest financing to build or upgrade storage facilities for organic commodities, including cold storage, grain bins, bulk tanks and drying and handling equipment.
- Services such as mapping farm and field boundaries and reporting organic acreage that can be provided to a farm's organic certifier or crop insurance agent.

Visit our FSA office to learn more about how our programs can help organic farmers.

Dates to Remember

Aug. 1 ---- **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

Aug. 1 ---- **Last day** to enroll in ARC/PLC coverage for 2016.

Aug. 31 -- **Deadline** to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2016.

Sept. 5 ---- Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Sept. 30 -- **Last day** for dairy producers to make elections for Milk Price Protection Program.

Oct. 1 ---- **Deadline** to obtain 2017 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

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).