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Ohio FSA State News and Updates

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USDA FSA Announces Perennial Forage Acreage Reporting Date Change for 2017 and Following Years

USDA has announced a change to the acreage reporting deadline for Ohio's perennial forage crop. The perennial forage crop must be reported by **Nov. 15, 2016** for crop year 2017 and subsequent years, which is a major change from the previous July 15th deadline.

Producers must still visit both FSA and RMA locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their County FSA office to file an accurate perennial forage crop certification report by the Nov. 15th deadline. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your [County FSA office](#).

**Production Adjustment,
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Matt Kleski

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Bob Cole, member
Bruce Long, member
Jim Rex, member
Jim Zumbrink, member

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.

[Current FSA Farm
Loan Interest Rates](#)

[Current Commodity Credit
Corporation \(CCC\) Interest
Rates](#)

USDA Issues Safety-Net Payments to Ohio Farmers in Response to 2015 Market Downturn

Nearly 100,000 Ohio farms that enrolled in safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill will receive financial assistance for the 2015 crop year. The programs, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are designed to protect against unexpected drops in crop prices or revenues due to market downturns.

“These safety-net programs provide help when price and revenues fall below normal, unlike the previous direct payments program that provided funds even in good years,” said Ohio FSA State Executive Director (SED) Steven Maurer. “These payments will help provide reassurance to Ohio farm families, who are standing strong against low commodity prices compounded by unfavorable growing conditions.”

More details on the price and yield information used to calculate the financing assistance from the safety-net programs is available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc and www.fsa.usda.gov/oh.

“Payments by county can vary because average county yields and guarantees will differ,” said SED Maurer. “In some cases, the average price for a crop for the market year was higher than the historical benchmark established by the program, so financial assistance did not occur.”

Statewide, over 86,000 farms participated in ARC-County and over 9,000 farms participated in PLC. More details on the price and yield information used to calculate the financing assistance from the safety-net programs is available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc and www.fsa.usda.gov/oh.

FSA Reminds Producers of Approaching NAP Deadlines for 2017 Crops

The Farm Service Agency (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.

- **November 20, 2016** is the deadline for 2017 NAP coverage on apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberrries, 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.

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.

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 Reminds Producers of Nov. 1 ELAP Application Deadline

Eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs, have until Nov. 1, 2016, to submit an application and notice of loss under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to your FSA County office.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2016
- An application for payment by November 1, 2016

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- [ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](#)

2017 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed and the acreage reporting date **is Dec. 15, 2016**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please contact your FSA County office to schedule an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction**.

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA county office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the [FSA-153 form](#).

Although interested parties may obtain a report form from any FSA county office, the completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land or where the programs are administered.

Foreign investors should contact your [County FSA Office](#) if this pertains to you.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 7 ---- [County committee election](#) ballots mailed to voters.

Nov. 11 --- Veterans Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Nov. 15 --- The final acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage crops. This applies for crop year 2017 and subsequent years, which is a major change from the previous July 15th deadline.

Nov. 20 --- **Last day to apply** for [2017 NAP coverage](#) for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, hops and maple syrup.

Nov. 24 --- Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Dec. 5 ----- **Last day** to return voted Ballots in [county committee election](#).

Dec. 15 --- **Deadline** to report the 2016 Fall Seeded Crops for fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.

Dec. 16 --- Last day for dairy producers to make elections for Dairy [Margin Protection \(MPP\) Program](#).

Dec. 26 --- Christmas Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

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).
