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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Ohio State FSA Newsletter

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A Message from the State Executive Director

Our offices and staff remain very busy as we continue to roll out additional farm bill programs, but it's important to remind producers about several important program deadlines on the horizon of which you should be aware. Here's some highlights:

Producers who filed prevented planting claims then planted an MFP-eligible cover crop, with the potential to be harvested or for subsequent use as forage, qualify for a \$15 per acre payment. Acreage of cover crops must have been planted by August 1, 2019 to be considered eligible for MFP payments and must be reported to your [FSA County office](#) by Aug. 16, 2019.

Aug. 23 is the deadline for the current application period for certain practices within the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). See the article below for details about what is being offered. Because there is a process involved with CRP applications, please don't wait until the final day to come see us for more information.

Sept. 20 is the deadline for our dairy producers to sign-up for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program. If you are a dairy

**Production Adjustment,
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Management Chief:**

Matt Kleski

State Committee Members:

Trish Levering, Chair
Ronnie Clifton
Daryl Knipp
Chase Powell
Joe Steiner

Visit the 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](#)

producer, and you haven't been in to see us yet, please review [the program information at this link](#) and then contact your [FSA County office](#) to set up an enrollment appointment.

The second round of the Market Facilitation Program signups has begun. While the deadline isn't until Dec. 6, our offices are busy with 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) applications. You can learn more about the program, including the per acre payment rate for your county, at farmers.gov/mfp.

The next farm bill program to be rolled out is the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. Additional ARC/PLC program details should be available soon.

Over the past few months, I have submitted numerous formal requests to Secretary Perdue for several of our counties due to the excessive rain and flooding. Recently, Secretary Perdue has approved several separate Secretarial Disaster designations and as of today, August 16, the primary counties include: **Allen, Auglaize, Brown, Clermont, Crawford, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties** as primary natural disaster areas due to the excessive rain and flooding that has occurred over the past several months.

Producers in the contiguous counties of *Adams, Ashland, Clinton, Defiance, Delaware, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Knox, Logan, Lorain, Mercer, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Shelby, Union and Warren counties* are named as contiguous disaster counties.

Ohio is awaiting further decisions from Secretary Perdue for additional counties that were recently submitted and as of today, August 16, those counties include: **Athens, Butler, Defiance, Fayette, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Logan, Meigs, Mercer, Pike, Putnam, Richland, Scioto, Vinton, Warren, Washington and Wayne counties** due to the excessive rain and flooding that has occurred over the past several months. If these counties receive a primary natural disaster area designation, then this allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters in these primary counties and for the contiguous counties. [Emergency loans](#) may be available to eligible producers to meet various recovery needs including replacing essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation or refinance certain debts. It is important for producers not farming in these counties who have experienced a production loss to submit a request to their [FSA County office](#) to be evaluated for a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Please call ahead to your [FSA County office](#) and schedule an appointment before stopping in. It helps us prepare for your visit, so you can complete your FSA business and be on your way.

Respectfully,

Leonard Hubert

Producers Have Until Aug. 23 to Re-enroll or Extend Expiring CRP Contracts

Farmers with expiring [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) contracts may re-enroll in certain CRP continuous signup practices or, if eligible, select a one-year contract extension. FSA is also accepting offers from landowners who want to enroll for the first time in one of the country's largest conservation programs. FSA's 52nd signup for CRP runs to August 23.

This year's CRP continuous signup includes practices such as grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices approved for this signup.](#)

Continuous signup contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates. Incentive payments are not offered for these practices. Producers interested in applying for continuous CRP practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who want to extend their contract, should contact their [FSA County office](#) by Aug. 23.

USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program

Enrollment Now Open through Dec. 6

Signup is available for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. [View payment rates by county.](#)

Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each

specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

Dairy Margin Coverage Signup Ends Sept. 20

Signup will end Sept. 20 for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program, the cornerstone program of the dairy safety net that helps dairy producers manage the volatility of milk and feed prices, operated by FSA.

The 2018 Farm Bill allowed USDA to construct the new DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). This new program offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

The program provides coverage retroactive to January 1, 2019, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment. At the time of signup, dairy producers can choose between the \$4.00 to \$9.50 coverage levels. [Learn more about coverage levels and premiums.](#)

The Farm Bill also allows producers who participated in MPP-Dairy from 2014-2017 [to receive a repayment or credit for part of the premiums paid into the program](#). FSA has been providing premium reimbursements to producers since last month and those that elect the 75 percent credit option will now have that credit applied toward 2019 DMC premiums.

The Department has built in a 50 percent blend of premium and supreme alfalfa hay prices with the alfalfa hay price used under the prior dairy program to provide a total feed cost that more closely aligns with hay rations used by many producers. At a milk margin minus feed cost of \$9.50 or less, payments are possible. With the 50 percent hay blend, FSA's revised April 2019 income over feed cost margin is \$8.82 per hundredweight (cwt). The revised margins for January, February and March are, respectively, \$7.71, \$7.91 and \$8.66 – triggering DMC payments for each month.

DMC payments will be reduced by 6.2 percent in 2019 because of a sequester order required by Congress and issued in accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DMC offers catastrophic coverage at no cost to the producer, other than an annual \$100 administrative fee. Producers can opt for greater coverage levels for a premium in addition to the administrative fee. Operations owned by limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or

veteran farmers and ranchers may be eligible for a waiver on administrative fees. Producers have the choice to lock in coverage levels until 2023 and receive a 25-percent discount on their DMC premiums.

To assist producers in making coverage elections, USDA partnered with the University of Wisconsin to develop a [DMC decision support tool](#), which can be used to evaluate various scenarios using different coverage levels through DMC.

All dairy operations in the United States are eligible for the DMC program. An operation can be run either by a single producer or multiple producers who commercially produce and market cows' milk.

Eligible dairy operations must have a production history determined by FSA. For most operations, production history is based on the highest milk production in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Newer dairy operations have other options for determining production history. Producers may contact their local FSA office to get their verified production history.

Dairy producers also are reminded that 2018 Farm Bill provisions allow for dairy operation to participate in both FSA's DMC program and the Risk Management Agency's [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM-Dairy\)](#) program. There are also no restrictions from participating in DMC in conjunction with any other RMA insurance products.

For more information, contact your [FSA County office](#).

USDA Designates Several Ohio Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S Department of Agriculture has designated several Ohio counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers who suffered losses due to eight separate disaster events may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) [emergency loans](#).

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Excessive Precipitation, Flooding and Ponding – March 1 – June 6, 2019

Producers in Fulton, Henry and Lucas counties who suffered losses caused by excessive precipitation, flooding and ponding that occurred between March 1 and June 6, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Defiance, Hancock, Ottawa, Putnam, Williams and Wood, along with Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe counties in Michigan, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is March 9, 2020.

Excessive Rain and Flooding – April 1 – July 7, 2019

Producers in Williams County who suffered losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred between April 1 and July 7, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Defiance, Fulton and Henry, along with DeKalb and Steuben counties in Indiana, and Hillsdale County in Michigan, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 1, 2020.

Excessive Rain and Flooding – April 8 – July 5, 2019

Producers in Marion County who suffered losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred between April 8 and July 5, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Crawford, Delaware, Hardin, Morrow, Union, and Wyandot are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 1, 2020.

Excessive Rain and Flooding – April 1 – July 3, 2019

Producers in Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Van Wert counties who suffered losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred between April 1 and July 3, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Lorain, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, and Wood, along with Adams and Allen counties in Indiana, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 2, 2020.

Excessive Rain and Flooding – Sept. 1, 2018 – July 3, 2019

Producers in Allen, Brown, Clermont, Crawford, Hancock, and Morrow counties who suffered losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred between Sept. 1, 2018 and July 3, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Adams, Auglaize, Clinton, Delaware, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Huron, Knox, Marion, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert, Warren, Wood, and Wyandot, along with Bracken, Campbell, Mason and Pendleton counties in Kentucky, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 2, 2020.

Extreme Precipitation and Flooding – Nov. 11, 2018 - Continuing

Producers in Auglaize, Paulding, Seneca, Wood, and Wyandot counties, who suffered losses caused by rain, flash flooding, flooding, excessive moisture and extreme precipitation events that occurred since Nov. 11, 2018, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Putnam, Sandusky, Shelby, and Van Wert, along with Allen County, Indiana, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Cold, Excessive Rain, Flooding, and Polar Vortex – Jan. 20, 2019 – Feb. 1, 2019

Producers in Athens, Fairfield, Hocking, Licking, and Washington counties who suffered losses due to cold, excessive rain, flooding, and the polar vortex that occurred from January 20 through February 1, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Coshocton, Delaware, Franklin, Knox, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton, along with Pleasants, Tyler, and Wood counties in West Virginia, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Freeze, High Winds, and Extreme Cold – Jan. 20, 2019 – April 30, 2019

Producers in Ottawa and Sandusky counties, who suffered losses caused by freeze, high winds, extreme cold and the polar vortex that occurred between Jan. 20 and April 30, 2019, are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Ohio counties of Erie, Huron, Lucas, Seneca, and Wood, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is March 25, 2020. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

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FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#); [Emergency Conservation Program](#); [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#); [Livestock Indemnity Program](#); [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](#); and the [Tree Assistance Program](#).

Farmers may contact their [FSA County office](#) for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at farmers.gov/recover.

Dates to Remember

Aug. 23 --- 2019 CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) Enrollment application deadline.

Aug. 23 --- 2019 CRP Continuous Enrollment signup and Lake Erie CREP signup deadline.

Aug. 31 --- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turf grass Sod and Watercress.

Sept. 2 ---- Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Sept. 4 ---- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Nursery and Ornamental Nursery.

Sept. 20 --- Deadline to sign-up for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program.

Sept. 30 --- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

Oct. 14 ----- Columbus Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Nov. 4 ---- County committee ballots mailed to voters.

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

Nov. 20 --- Last day to apply for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, hops and maple syrup.

Nov. 28 --- Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Dec. 2 ----- Last day to return voted Ballots in county committee election.

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).