A Message from the State Executive Director

The nation is going through some challenging times with the current Pandemic. I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy for those who have already been affected by COVID-19. Our work is vitally important, and it is imperative that we keep our employees and customers healthy to ensure a safe and stable food supply.

USDA Service Centers are encouraging all visitors to take proactive protective measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

As part of our commitment to farmers and producers, USDA Service Centers will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our FSA and NRCS program staff at the Service Centers will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible.
Price Support Chief:
Mark VanHoose

Production Adjustment, Compliance and Risk 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

Producers can find their Service Center’s phone number at FSA County office. Rest assured we’re committed to continuing to provide the best service we can, and this includes keeping our customers and staff healthy. We will continue program signups, loan servicing and other important actions on behalf of our producers as we look to new ways to deliver the programs, loans and other necessary actions to our customers. I provided an update on March 27 and I encourage all producers to read this information.

We have a great deal of activity going on in our county offices, please take a moment to consider whether you have business that needs to be addressed with your FSA County office. Additional program details and more in-depth information is provided in our newsletter.

Farmers and landowners may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands as signup continues through May 15, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

USDA recently announced additional disaster assistance available to agricultural producers, including producers impacted by drought and excess moisture. Through WHIP+ program, USDA is helping producers recover from losses related to 2018 and 2019 natural disasters. Signup continues for producers who want to apply for eligible losses of excess moisture.

Despite the current challenges and daily uncertainty, we continue to be here for you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Stay safe and healthy!

Respectfully,

Leonard Hubert

USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup Continues

Farmers and landowners may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands as signup continues through May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP.
land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information view the [CRP Grasslands factsheet](#) or contact your [County FSA office](#).

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**Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Enrollment for 2020**

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The deadline to enroll for the 2020 crop year is **June 30, 2020**. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs; and to ensure FSA meets your program delivery expectations, please do not wait to start the enrollment process. Contact your FSA county office and make an appointment soon to ensure your elections are made and contracts signed well ahead of the deadline.

ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that take effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update and enrollments may be completed during the same office visit.

For more information on ARC and PLC, or to enroll, contact your [County FSA office](#) for an appointment.

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**CRP Continuous Enrollment Period**

FSA is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup](#).

CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.
Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, visit fsa.usda.gov/crp or call your FSA County office for more details.

FSA’s Farm Loan Program

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you’ve had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

For detailed information, contact your FSA County office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Signup is Open for Added Causes of Loss Under WHIP+

USDA announced additional disaster assistance available to agricultural producers, including producers impacted by drought and excess moisture. Through WHIP+, USDA is helping producers recover from losses related to 2018 and 2019 natural disasters.

Signup started on March 23 for producers to apply for eligible losses of drought (D3 or above) and excess moisture.

In June 2019, more than $3 billion was made available through a disaster relief package passed by Congress and signed by President Trump. In December 2019, Congress passed, and President Trump signed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 that provides an additional $1.5 billion for the continuation of disaster assistance program delivery.

WHIP+ New Qualifying Disaster Events

The bill added excessive moisture and D3 and D4 drought as qualifying losses for WHIP+ assistance. Beginning March 23, producers who suffered either of these types of loss in 2018 and/or 2019 can apply for WHIP+ assistance at their FSA County office.

WHIP+ for Quality Loss

In addition, producers have reported widespread crop quality loss from eligible disaster events that results in price deductions or penalties when marketing the damaged crops. The Appropriations bill expands WHIP+ to include assistance for crop quality loss. FSA is gathering data and input from producers and stakeholders regarding the extent and types of quality loss nationwide.
Eligibility

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes, or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for the following named natural disaster events; hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, wildfires, and now excessive moisture that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

Because livestock losses are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, these losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

April 2020 Loan and Interest Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Operating Loans, Direct</td>
<td>2.375%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Ownership Loans, Direct</td>
<td>3.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Resource Loans</td>
<td>5.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment</td>
<td>1.500%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Loans</td>
<td>3.375%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3 year</td>
<td>0.750%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5 year</td>
<td>0.750%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodity Loans</td>
<td>1.625%</td>
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</tbody>
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Dates to Remember

May 15 --- CRP Grasslands Signup Ends.

May 25 --- Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.

May 31 --- Deadline to apply for 2019 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.

July 3 ----- Independence 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).