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**A Message from the State Executive Director**

I want to begin this month by offering a note of thanks to you, our Ohio FSA customers. It is a stressful and challenging time in agriculture, and while our offices are here to help you, we’ve had to do so under unique circumstances and different models of service delivery due to the impact of COVID-19. We appreciate your patience and adaptation to using our office drop boxes, email, and other online tools.

As a federal government agency, we must follow the lead of USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. We are moving toward a resumption of in-person, in-office traffic in phases, and so USDA FSA offices across the state will be at different levels of operation,
Conservation Chief: Brandi Koehler
Farm Loan Chief: David Drake
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

County-level information on FSA Service Center status will be updated regularly and you can learn the status of your FSA County office at: https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status. NOTE: Please use the latest versions of Chrome, Edge, or Safari for the best experience. The Farmers.gov website is not recommended for the Internet Explorer browser.

Take a moment to read the articles below to familiarize yourself with upcoming important deadlines, such as the spring crop acreage reporting (July 15). We also continue to assist folks with Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) applications. If you haven’t visited with us yet about this program, please go to www.farmers.gov/cfap to learn more and then make an appointment with your FSA County office.

I also want to highlight the article below on the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). This program is an ad hoc disaster assistance program that was rolled out late last year to assist producers with crop losses due to natural disasters for 2019 and 2018.

Then in February 2020, excessive moisture was added to the program as a qualifying disaster event. Please review the article and then call your FSA County office if you believe you may qualify for this program.

Also, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently announced an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to the CFAP and that the USDA made other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data.

Join the National FSA as they discuss additional commodities that are now eligible for the CFAP. The National office will also cover adjustments made to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. FSA is accepting applications for CFAP through Aug. 28, 2020. The CFAP program helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic.

CFAP Producer Webinar: Additional Eligible Commodities & Program Adjustments Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 3:00 PM EDT
Register at: https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1344141&tp_key=d4c28040ea
Respectfully,

Leonard Hubert

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**Eligibility for Nominations for the 2020 County Committee Elections**

FSA county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 3, 2020. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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**Additional Commodities Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. Producers will be able to submit applications that include these commodities on Monday, July 13, 2020. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting through Aug. 28, 2020, applications for CFAP, which helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic. USDA expects additional eligible commodities to be announced in the coming weeks.

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020.

**Changes to CFAP include:**

- Adding the following commodities: alfalfa sprouts, anise, arugula, basil, bean sprouts, beets, blackberries, Brussels sprouts, celeriac (celery root), chives, cilantro, coconuts, collard greens, dandelion greens, greens (others not listed separately), guava, kale greens, lettuce – including Boston, green leaf, Lolla Rossa, oak leaf green, oak leaf red and red leaf – marjoram, mint, mustard, okra, oregano, parsnips, passion fruit, peas (green), pineapple, pistachios, radicchio, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, fresh sugarcane, Swiss chard, thyme and turnip top greens.
• Expanding for seven currently eligible commodities – apples, blueberries, garlic, potatoes, raspberries, tangerines and taro – CARES Act funding for sales losses because USDA found these commodities had a 5 percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for marketing adjustments.

• Determining that peaches and rhubarb no longer qualify for payment under the CARES Act sales loss category.

• Correcting payment rates for apples, artichokes, asparagus, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, kiwifruit, mushrooms, papaya, peaches, potatoes, raspberries, rhubarb, tangerines and taro.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Final Rule Correction and at www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP program:

• Using an online portal, accessible at farmers.gov/cfap, allows producers with secure USDA login credentials—known as eAuthentication—to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center. New commodities will be available in the system on July 13, 2020.

• Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at farmers.gov/cfap. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center. An updated version with the new commodities will be available on the website on July 13, 2020.

• Downloading the AD-3114 application form from farmers.gov/cfap and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status to check the status of your local office.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at farmers.gov/mydocs.

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

More than 1.2 million acres accepted for Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands
More than 1.2 million acres were accepted in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands during the recent signup period that began March 16 and ended 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 10 or 15 years. FSA ranked offers 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 or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your FSA County office.

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**Report 2019 Yields for Crops Enrolled in ARC-IC – Deadline July 15**

Producers who elected ARC-IC on one or more farms must certify crop yields for all planted covered commodities on the enrolled ARC-IC farm(s) to be eligible for any potential payment. 2019 actual yields are required to calculate the 2019 guarantee and actual revenue. If the 2019 actual revenue is less than the 2019 guarantee, the ARC-IC farm may be eligible for a 2019 ARC-IC payment.

All 2019 yields for all covered crops planted are to be reported and certified on FSA form CCC-863 along with the yields of the five historical benchmark years of 2013-2017. Additionally, since the 2018 yield for all covered commodities planted on the ARC-IC farm will be required for the 2020 contract year, producers may report that yield at the same time. 2019 actual crop yields for ARC-IC calculations are required to be reported to FSA by July 15, 2020.

More information on the ARC-IC program can be found in the Appendix to the contract.

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**CLEAR30 the first USDA program to offer 30-year Signup**

FSA will open signup this summer for CLEAR30, a new pilot program that offers farmers and landowners an opportunity to enroll in a 30-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract. This pilot is available to farmers and landowners with expiring water-quality practice CRP contracts in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay regions. The program signup period is July 6 to Aug. 21, 2020.

The pilot is available in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Eligible producers must have expiring Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative contracts, including continuous CRP Cropland contracts with water-quality practices or marginal pasturelands CRP contracts devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers or wetland buffers.
The longer contracts will help ensure that practices remain in place for 30 years, which will help reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and help prevent algal blooms. Traditional CRP contracts run from 10 to 15 years.

Annual rental payment for landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will be equal to the current Continuous CRP annual payment rate plus an inflationary adjustment of 27.5 percent, since CLEAR30 contracts will be for 30 years – much longer than the 10 to 15-year contracts for Continuous CRP offers.

Another unique program feature is that FSA will help producers maintain CLEAR30 contract acreage. For more information or to enroll in CLEAR30, contact your FSA County office.

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**FSA Reminds Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports**

FSA reminds producers to timely file crop acreage reports. The deadline for acreage certification is **July 15, 2020**. This includes common spring-planted crops, such as corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum, but also includes Conservation Reserve Program acres and perennial grass. Acreage certification is required to maintain eligibility for program benefits. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for:

- **Dec. 15, 2020** --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

Due to the pandemic, FSA has implemented acreage reporting flexibilities. FSA can work with producers to file timely acreage reports by phone, email, online tools and virtual meetings. Some FSA offices are open for in-person appointments, but you must call first to make an appointment.

FSA county offices in Ohio provided maps to producers along with instructions for completing and returning the maps through either mail, email or through commercially available free and secure online tools such as Box for file sharing and OneSpan for eSignature solutions. After planting is complete, producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through mail, email or the Box and OneSpan tools by the applicable deadline.

After completed maps and all acreage reporting information is received, FSA will make software updates and send producers the completed *Report of Acreage* form (FSA-578) to sign. Producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through mail, email, or the Box and OneSpan tools by the applicable deadline.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer has not timely filed an acreage report, the producer may file the acreage report within 30 days of the acreage reporting date. Because of the pandemic, late fees will be waived if filed within the 30 days.

FSA is also providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events. For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a
Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss by calling their FSA county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions, please contact your FSA County office.

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**USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing ‘Notice of Loss’ for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres**

The USDA is providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events. FSA is adding these flexibilities for Notice of Loss on both insured and uninsured crops to enable Service Centers to best assist producers.

**Filing for Prevented Planted Acres**

For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. FSA can use data from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for accepting the report of prevented planting with FSA. If the information is not available through RMA, the producer may also provide proper evidence to FSA that the prevented planted claim was timely filed with the reinsurance company.

For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) by calling their FSA county office, or they may print and complete the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form from home and send to their county office. For prevented planted acreage, Notice of Loss forms mailed to the FSA office must be postmarked by the final acreage reporting date in the county to be considered timely filed. For all prevented planted cases, the Report of Acreage (FSA-578) form and the completed and signed Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed by the applicable acreage reporting date.

**Filing for Failed Acres**

For failed acreage of uninsured crops, the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be completed, signed and verified before the disposition of the crop.

**When to File a ‘Notice of Loss’**

A Notice of Loss cannot be filed for a crop before the final planting date, but it can be filed before completing the crop acreage report.

**More Information**

Producers who miss FSA’s July 15 acreage reporting deadline will not face a late filing fee if filed within a month of the deadline.

For questions, please contact your FSA county office.
USDA Dairy Safety-Net Program Signup to Begin October 12 for the 2021 Coverage Period; May Margin Triggers Third DMC Program Payment

FSA announced that Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) safety-net signup for 2021 coverage will begin October 12 and will run through December 11, 2020. DMC has already triggered payments for three months for producers who signed up for 2020 coverage.

The May 2020 income over feed cost margin was $5.37 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the third payment of 2020 for dairy producers who purchased the appropriate level of coverage under the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. To date, FSA has issued more than $176 million in program benefits to dairy producers who purchased DMC coverage for 2020.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Over 13,000 operations enrolled in the program for the 2020 calendar year.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors may also be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

For more information, contact your FSA County office.

FSA Offices Still Accepting WHIP+ Crop Disaster Program Applications for 2018, 2019 Losses

The application period remains open for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus (WHIP+), which is available to agriculture producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019. Producers are reminded that late in 2019 excessive moisture was added as a qualifying disaster event under the program. An application deadline has not yet been established.

WHIP+, is available to producers who have 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 qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

In addition to the recently added eligible losses of excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.
USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information on Service Centers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus, and more information on WHIP+ can be found at farmers.gov/whip-plus.

### USDA Announces Improvements to the Livestock Risk Protection Insurance Program This Summer

USDA’s Risk Management Agency announced changes to the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance program for feeder cattle, fed cattle and swine starting this summer with the 2021 crop year. Changes include moving premium due dates to the end of the endorsement period and increasing premium subsidies to assist producers.

Specifically, the changes:

- Allow premiums to be paid at the end of the endorsement period, putting it in line with other policies.
- Increase the premium subsidy for coverage levels above 80 percent. Those with an 80 percent or higher coverage level will get a 5-percentage point subsidy increase.

You may buy LRP insurance throughout the year from Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), with coverage prices ranging from 70 to 100 percent of the expected ending value of their animals. At the end of the insurance period, if the actual ending value is below the coverage price, you will be paid an indemnity for the difference. Premium rates, coverage prices and actual ending values are posted online daily.

Livestock insurance is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. A list of insurance agents is available online using the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about livestock insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

### July 2020 Loan and Interest Rates

- Farm Operating Loans, Direct: -- 1.375%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Direct: -- 2.250%
- Limited Resource Loans: -- 5.000%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment: -- 1.500%
- Emergency Loans: -- 2.375%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3 year: -- 0.250%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5 year: -- 0.375%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 year: -- 0.500%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year: -- 0.750%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year: -- 0.875%
- Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year: -- 1.000%
- Commodity Loans: -- 1.125%
**Dates to Remember**

**July 15 ---- Final certification date** to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops. Report perennial forage crops.

**July 15 ---- Final date** to submit yields for ARC-IC on FSA-863.

**July 15 ---- Ohio's primary nesting season ends.**

**Aug. 3 ----- Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

**Aug. 3 ----- Deadline** to request farm transfers or reconstitutions for 2020.

**Aug. 21 --- Deadline** to enroll for CLEAR 30 and CRP Re-enrollments.

**Aug. 28 --- Deadline** to submit application for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

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

**Sept. 7 ---- Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.**

**Sept. 30 --- Deadline** to Update PLC Yields.

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).