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A Message from the Ohio FSA State Office

It's hard to believe we already find ourselves in the month of September, with Autumn quickly approaching, the year so far has flown by. As you'll note in the newsletter below, FSA has announced some additional information about ERP since our last newsletter. Please take a moment to read our through our newsletter and please follow up with your FSA County office if you have any questions.

The Ohio FSA is looking for dedicated and talented individuals to assist in our mission of partnering with American farmers and producers to attain an economically and environmentally sound future for American agriculture. FSA is advertising full-time permanent Program Technician positions throughout the state. These positions are a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in working with the agricultural community and works directly with farmers and landowners. This position offers benefits, including health insurance that can be carried into retirement, 401(k) plan, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, and flexible work schedules. If you or perhaps someone you know is interested in working with FSA, please visit with your FSA County office to learn more about these important positions.

We are getting set to issue crop year 2021 payments if earned, through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs that are the main crop commodity farm bill safety net programs. We also will be issuing Conservation Reserve Program rental payments in October. Most folks receive these payments electronically, so in order to facilitate this process, please contact your FSA County office if you have closed your bank...
account, changed accounts or banks, or if your bank has been purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of these changes.

On August 18, USDA FSA announced another installment (phase) in assistance to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021. FSA began mailing pre-filled applications in late August to more than 18,000 producers who will receive new or updated pre-filled disaster applications to offset eligible crop losses. Approximately $6.4 billion has already been distributed to 165,000 producers through USDA’s FSA Emergency Relief Program (ERP).

The USDA FSA recently announced that it will indefinitely extend the deadline for producers to return the pre-filled applications for Phase One of the Emergency Relief Program (ERP). A new deadline will be announced after the last Phase One applications are mailed and will provide at least 30 days following the mailing.

Additional program details and more in-depth information is provided in our newsletter.

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**New Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Resources Available**

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and the American Farmland Trust (AFT) are unveiling new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) resources that guides entities through the Agricultural Land Easements acquisitions process. The new resources include two new factsheets that explain the NRCS Minimum Deed Terms:

- **ACEP-ALE Minimum Deed Terms with Commentary** – compares different options for integrating the minimum deed terms into the ALE deed.
- **ACEP-ALE Options for Integrating Minimum Deed Terms** - walks through the minimum deed terms and adds commentary to each section. The commentary is meant for landowners and entities and provides context and explanations for how the terms may impact agricultural operations.

The new factsheets join a suite of additional online resources developed to help landowners and entities through ACEP- ALE’s application process. They can be accessed through AFT’s Farmland Information Centers publications page.

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**USDA to Mail Additional Pre-Filled Applications to Producers Impacted by 2020, 2021 Disasters**

*More than 18,000 producers will receive applications in late August*

The USDA announced another installment (phase) in assistance to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021. More than 18,000 producers will soon receive new or updated pre-filled disaster applications to offset eligible crop losses. Approximately $6.4 billion has already been distributed to 165,000 producers through FSA Emergency Relief Program (ERP).
FSA will begin mailing pre-filled applications in late August to producers who have potentially eligible losses and:

- Received crop insurance indemnities for qualifying 2020 and 2021 disaster events after May 2, 2022.
- Received crop insurance indemnities associated with Nursery, Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) and Margin Protection (MP) policies.
- New primary policyholders not included in the initial insured producer Phase 1 mailing from May 25, 2022, because their claim records had not been filled.
- Certain 2020 prevent plant losses related to qualifying 2020 disaster events that had only been recorded in crop insurance records as related to 2019 adverse weather events and, as such, were not previously provided in applications sent earlier this year.
- New Substantial Beneficial Interest (SBI) records, including SBIs where tax identification numbers were corrected.

Producers are expected to receive assistance direct deposited into their bank account within three business days after they sign and return the pre-filled application to the FSA county office and the county office enters the application into the system.

Before applying any program payment factors or eligibility criteria, it is estimated that this next installment (phase) may generate about $756 million in assistance.

**Emergency Relief Payments to Date**

This emergency relief under ERP complements ERP assistance recently provided to more than 165,000 producers who had received crop insurance indemnities and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments for qualifying losses. USDA has processed more than 255,000 applications for ERP, and to date, has made approximately $6.4 billion in payments to commodity and specialty crop producers to help offset eligible losses from qualifying 2020 and 2021 natural disasters. Also, earlier this year, staff processed more than 100,000 payments through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) and paid eligible producers more than $601.3 million for 2021 grazing losses within days of the program announcement.

**Phase Two**

The second phase of both ERP and ELRP will be aimed at filling gaps and provide assistance to producers who did not participate in or receive payments through the existing risk management programs that are being leveraged for phase one implementation. USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program details are made available.

**More Information**

In addition, on Aug. 18, 2022, USDA published a technical correction to the Notice of Funds Availability for ERP and ELRP to clarify how income from the sale of farm equipment and the provision of production inputs and services to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and farm operations are to be considered in the calculation of average adjusted gross farm income. Producers whose average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75% of the
producer’s the average Adjusted Gross Income can gain access to a higher payment limitation.

ERP and the previously announced ELRP are authorized by the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which President Biden signed into law in 2021. The law provided $10 billion to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

For more information on ERP and ELRP eligibility, program provisions for historically underserved producers as well as Frequently Asked Questions, producers can visit FSA’s Emergency Relief webpage. A new public-facing dashboard on the ERP webpage has information on ERP payments that can be sorted by crop type – specialty or non-specialty—specific commodities and state. FSA will update the dashboard every Monday.

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Farm Loan Discovery Tool. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

FSA Reminds Producers of Approaching NAP Deadlines for 2023 Crops

FSA reminds producers who are interested in the 2023 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), of the need to apply for coverage by the following crop deadline dates.

- **September 30, 2022** is the deadline for 2023 NAP coverage on winter wheat, rye, barley and speltz.

- **November 20, 2022** is the deadline for 2023 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, 2023** is the deadline for 2023 NAP coverage on forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, Soybeans, Sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

**NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option**

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

**NAP Service Fees**
For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

**NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans**

Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, “Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.”

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](http://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.

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**USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs of Organic, Transitioning Producers**

Applications for the Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program (OTECP) and Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) due October 31, 2022.

Agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic, along with producers and handlers who are transitioning to organic production, can now apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) [Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) (OTECP) and [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) (OCCSP), which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification, along with other related expenses. Applications for OTECP and OCCSP are both due October 31, 2022.

OTECP covers:

- Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25% up to $250 per category).
- Eligible expenses for transitional producers, including fees for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan (75% up to $750).
- Registration fees for educational events (75% up to $200).
- Soil testing (75% up to $100).

Meanwhile, OCCSP covers 50% or up to $500 per category of certification costs in 2022.

This cost share for certification is available for each of these categories: crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and State organic program fees.

Producers can receive cost share through both OTECP and OCCSP. Both OTECP and OCCSP cover costs incurred from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. Producers have
until October 31, 2022 to file applications, and FSA will make payments as applications are received.

To apply, producers and handlers should contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at their local USDA Service Center. As part of completing the OCCSP applications, producers and handlers will need to provide documentation of their organic certification and eligible expenses. Organic producers and handlers may also apply for OCCSP through participating State agencies.

Additional details can be found on the [OTECP](https://www.otecp.gov) and [OCCSP](https://www.occsp.gov) webpages.

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**USDA Announces First Three Lenders for Heirs’ Property Relending Program**

*Additional Lenders Invited to Apply to Program*

USDA is announcing that Shared Capital Cooperative, Akiptan, Inc. and the Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority (CNEDTA), have been approved or conditionally approved as intermediary lenders through the Heirs’ Property Relending Program (HPRP). Once HPRP loans with these lenders close, these lenders will help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs’ land ownership and succession issues. Additionally, USDA encourages more intermediary lenders, including cooperatives, credit unions and nonprofit organizations to apply. More information is at [farmers.gov/heirs/relending](https://www.farmers.gov/heirs/relending).

Heirs may apply directly to the intermediary lenders for loans to resolve land ownership and succession issues. Learn more.

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**Alert FSA to Bank Account Changes for Timely Payments**

FSA program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for whatever reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2021 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program are scheduled to be paid in the coming months.

If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

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**Dates to Remember**
September 30 ---- **Deadline** to obtain 2022 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

**October 10 --------** Columbus Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

**October 31 --------** FSA **deadline** for applications to the Organic Certification Cost Share Program and the Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program.

**November 7 ------** County committee ballots mailed to voters.

**November 11 -----** Veterans Day Holiday. **USDA Service Center is Closed.**

**November 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.

**November 24 ---** Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **USDA Service Center is Closed.**

**December 5 -----** **Last day** to return voted Ballots in county committee election.

**ERP Phase 1: Deadline TBA:** The deadline for producers to return the pre-filled applications for Phase One of the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) has been extended. A new deadline will be announced after the last Phase One applications are mailed and provide at least 30 days following the mailing.

**Ongoing**

Reports of Failed Acreage must be filed with the County Office before disposition of the crop.

Reports of Prevented Planting Acreage must be filed with the County Office no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for that county and producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Contact FSA right away for notice of loss deadlines and disaster program requirements.

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**September 2022 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>-- 4.125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Ownership Loans, Direct</td>
<td>-- 4.375%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited Resource Loans</td>
<td>-- 5.000%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment</td>
<td>-- 1.500%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Loans</td>
<td>-- 3.750%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5 year</td>
<td>-- 2.875%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 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>-- 4.125%</td>
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