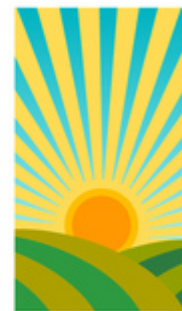


February 2017



Farm Service Agency

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NEWSLETTER

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Oklahoma FSA Newsletter

Oklahoma Farm Service Agency **Livestock Forage Losses**

Lyndal Stoup
Acting State Executive
Director

100 USDA, Suite 102
Stillwater, OK 74074
405-742-1130 phone
855-416-9557 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ok

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee Members:

Cletus Carter, Beaver
(Chairman)
Steve Nunley, Marlow

Producers in Adair, Atoka, Bryan, Canadian, Cleveland, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cimarron, Coal, Creek, Ellis, Dewey, Garfield, Garvin, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Kingfisher, Latimer, LeFlore, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, McCurtain, McIntosh, Murray, Muskogee, Noble, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Roger Mills, Seminole, Sequoyah, Texas, Tulsa, Wagoner, Woods, and Woodward counties are eligible to apply for 2017 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, cool season improved pasture, and annual ryegrass.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal

Brenda Neufeld, Fairview
Steve Butler, Wagoner
Jo Jennings, Depew

State Staff:
Phil Estes,
Farm Loan Programs

J.D. Elwood
Production & Payment
Eligibility

Joy Alspach,
Conservation

Danny Lee,
Compliance & Price Support

Krey Reimer,
Administration

Janlyn Hannah,
Public Relations/Outreach

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county. FSA Office contact information can be located on our [online Directory](#)

permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2018 for 2017 losses.

Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Assistance Available to Poultry Producers and Small Businesses

USDA sister agency, Rural Development (RD), has planned a training for their Rural Energy for America Program and the Value Added Producer Program at Eastern Oklahoma State College in McAlester, OK on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017. Presentations will be made by Brian Wiles, RD Business and Energy Programs Manager, and Jody Harris, RD Rural Energy Coordinator, in the Clark Bass Building Auditorium from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Topics for the event include: loan financing and grant funding for agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements and entering into value-added activities related to processing and marketing value-added products. This training is open to all interested parties. Please RSVP by email to jody.harris@ok.usda.gov or amy.cowley@ok.usda.gov or by phone at (405)742-1060.

Online Borrower Training

The OSU Department of Agricultural Economics (OSU Ag Econ) has developed a new online course that will provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about financial management. It can also be used to complete FSA Borrower training, if required or recommended. The YouTube videos, publications, spreadsheets and webinars are accessible to anyone who wants to improve their understanding of finances. With increasing farm financial stress, the aim is to help producers refocus on important things.

The website and course contains 31 topic sections, each with one or more videos and associated educational resources. The videos for each topic may be viewed on the OSU Ag Econ YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/OkStateAgEcon>. The video library is publicly available to everyone. Viewers will gain new insights into thinking about their operations and how to summarize information to support decision-making. Viewers will learn of tools available for navigating a challenging economic environment.

Along with the website and course, we will be offering live webinars presented on Adobe Connect (they will also be recorded and archived for later viewing). All webinars are scheduled for 12 PM CST. To view these webinars go to http://dasnr.adobeconnect.com/agecon_current_issues/ Email Brent

Ladd (brent.ladd@okstate.edu) to receive instructions on how to view these webinars.

Webinar Schedule

The Financial Forecast: Partly Cloudy, Partly Sunny, Stormy? - February 14

Crop Market Outlook - February 28

Livestock Market - Outlook March 14

Succession Planning - March 28

Leasing and Rental Rates: Coming to Agreement - April 11

FSA Borrower Training

Producers seeking certification for borrower training will complete 18 required modules in one of two paths (crop or livestock as appropriate for their situation) plus 7 additional modules. All presentations, lists of resources and website links, and activity worksheets will be hosted on Brightspace D2L. This platform allows participants to submit required activities, quizzes, etc. for review by instructors. Borrower Training participants must successfully complete required activities and pass subject-related quizzes to earn FSA Borrower Training credit. The course fee of \$150 is payable in advance of beginning the course and participants have up to 2 years to complete training. Please contact Brent Ladd (brent.ladd@okstate.edu or 405-744-6159) for a user id and password to access the online course.

USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for NAP. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection."

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.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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).

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