

October 2015



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- [2016 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage \(Grass Intended for Grazing or Hay\)](#)
- [Incentives for Working Grass, Range and Pasture Lands](#)
- [2015 Livestock Disaster Assistance Available](#)
- [USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program](#)
- [Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services](#)
- [Beginning Farmer Loans](#)
- [Direct Loans](#)

Oklahoma FSA Program Reminders

Oklahoma Farm Service Agency

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

State Committee Members:

Cletus Carter, Beaver
(Chairman)
Steve Nunley, Marlow
Brenda Neufeld, Fairview
Steve Butler, Wagoner
Jo Jennings, Depew

2016 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage (Grass Intended for Grazing or Hay)

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA Office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline for PRF/Perennial Forage. Programs that require certification of PRF and/or Perennial Forage include the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage Program (PLC).

Perennial Forage includes but is not limited to grass, alfalfa, clover and mixed forage intended for hay or grazing.

The acreage reporting deadline for Perennial Forage (Grass for Grazing and Hay) is November 15, 2015.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting date:

State Staff:

Phil Estes,
Farm Loan Programs

Tona Huggins,
Production & Payment
Eligibility

Rod Wanger,
Conservation Programs

Danny Lee,
Compliance & Price Support

Krey Reimer,
Administration

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](#).

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is complete.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

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 regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

Incentives for Working Grass, Range and Pasture Lands

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. The Farm Service Agency is currently accepting applications for enrollment in CRP Grasslands on an ongoing basis.

Enrollment is competitive with applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments ranging from \$15 to \$21 per acre per year for up to a 15-year contract. Cost-share assistance may be available for up to 50 percent of the some practices, such as water development, cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators and other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

To learn more about participating in CRP-Grasslands, consult with the local Farm Service Agency county office. To locate a nearby Farm Service Agency office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2015 Livestock Disaster Assistance Available

Livestock producers in eligible counties are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their local FSA office to sign up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) which provides payments to eligible livestock producers for grazing losses due to drought, or fire on federal lands.

Producers located in Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Johnston, Marshall, and Pushmataha counties are

now eligible 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Producers in Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cimarron, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Love, Major, McCurtain, Noble, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Roger Mills, Stephens, Texas, Tillman, Tulsa, Washita, Woods, and Woodward counties are still eligible for assistance.

2015 eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and submit the required supporting documentation by the deadline of January 30, 2016.

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

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that the deadline to enroll for the dairy Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016 has been extended until Nov. 20, 2015. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

Producers are encouraged to use the online Web resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet.

Producers who were enrolled in 2015 will need to make a coverage election for 2016 and pay the \$100 administration fee. Although any unpaid premium balances for 2015 must be paid in full by the enrollment deadline to remain eligible for higher coverage levels in 2016, premiums for 2016 are not due until Sept. 1, 2016. Also, producers can work with milk marketing companies to remit premiums on their behalf.

To enroll in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Payments under the program may be reduced by a certain percentage due to a sequester order required by Congress and issued pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Should a payment reduction be necessary, FSA will reduce the payment by the required amount.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development

(RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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 and employer. 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).