



# NEWSLETTER



September 2015

## Oklahoma FSA Program Updates and Reminders

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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

### State Staff:

Phil Estes,  
Farm Loan Programs

Tona Huggins,  
Production & Payment  
Eligibility

Rod Wanger,  
Conservation Programs

Danny Lee,  
Compliance & Price Support

Krey Reimer,  
Administration

Shelly Bilderback,  
Public Relations/Outreach

## September 30th Deadline for ARC/PLC Enrollment Quickly Approaching

The enrollment period for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015, will end Sept. 30, 2015. **Producers should contact their local FSA to ensure they have signed program contracts before Sept. 30th.**

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. More than 1.76 million farmers have elected ARC or PLC. Previously, 1.7 million producers had enrolled to receive direct payments (the program replaced with ARC and PLC by the 2014 Farm Bill). This means more farms have elected ARC or PLC than enrolled under previously administered programs.

Land owners were given the opportunity to do yield updates/base reallocations, then elected either the ARC or PLC program. This final step is enrollment by anyone with an interest in a crop on a farm that has historical base acres.

**All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to complete the enrollment process and sign the program contracts.**

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## Cotton Transition Assistance Program Enrollment Deadline is Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

September 30, 2015 is the final date for producers to enroll in the 2015 Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). Eligible Oklahoma counties include: Creek, Hughes, Johnston, LeFlore, Logan, McCurtain, McIntosh, Major, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Sequoyah, and Wagoner.

CTAP provides interim payments to cotton producers in counties where the Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), a new insurance product administered by the Risk Management Agency, is not yet available. Most cotton-producing counties and cotton producers have STAX available and are not eligible for CTAP.

The Cotton Transition Assistance Program is for farms with former cotton base acres that are physically located in a county where the Stacked Income Protection Plan is unavailable.

## Upcoming NAP Application Closing Dates

Deadlines are quickly approaching to purchase coverage for fall-seeded crops. Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. 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.

### Upcoming NAP Application Closing Dates:

**September 30** - Apples, Barley-Grain, Blackberries, Blueberries, Grapes, Greens (including Spinach), Nectarines, Oats-Grain, Peaches, Pears, Raspberries, Rye-Grain, Triticale-Grain, Vetch and Wheat-Grain.

**November 30** - Asparagus, Clover-Forage, Grass-Forage, Honey, Lespedeza, Mixed Forage-Forage, Pecans, Plums.

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## USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadline

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](http://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.

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## 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 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 eligible to apply for 2015 LFP benefits. For 2015 and subsequent years, eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

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## Farm Loan Interest Rates

- Farm Operating Loans = 2.625%
  - Farm Ownership Loans = 3.75%
  - Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans = 1.5%
  - Farm Ownership Joint Financing Loans = 2.5%
  - Micro Loans = 2.625%
  - Youth Loans = 2.625%
  - Emergency Loans = 3.625%
- \* Rates effective October 1, 2015

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