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Oregon FSA Newsletter

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USDA Opens 2019 Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, two popular safety net programs, for the 2019 crop year. Interested producers must sign up for either program by March 15, 2020.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and made updates to these two USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. PLC program provides income support payments on historical base acres when the price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.
Updated provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill allow producers with an interest in a farm to enroll and elect coverage in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for program year 2019. The election applies to both the 2019 and 2020 crop years. If a 2019 election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2020, the election defaults to the current elections of the crops on the farm established under the 2014 Farm Bill. No payments will be earned in 2019 if the election defaults.

For crop years 2021 through 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Once the 2019 election and enrollment are completed, producers on the farm for 2020 can complete an enrollment contract for the 2020 crop year beginning Oct. 7, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Although 2019 enrollment begins Sept. 3, 2019 and must occur first, a producer waiting until Oct. 7, 2019 to enroll is afforded the opportunity to enroll in either program for both 2019 and 2020 during the same office visit. During this time, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that takes effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update may be completed during the same office visit.

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University are offering web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. These decision tools can be found at fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some forms of crop insurance. Producers who elect and enroll in PLC also have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers of covered commodities who elect ARC are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres. To be eligible for STAX coverage, producers must not enroll their seed cotton base acres into the ARC or PLC programs.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our program fact sheet or our 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet, or visit fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

September Interest Rates

90 Day Treasury Bill: 2.125%
Direct Operating Loans: 2.750%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans: 3.500%
Farm Ownership Down Payment: 1.500%
Farm Ownership Joint Financing: 2.500%
Emergency Loans Actual Loss: 3.750%
Important Dates

Sept. 11: Applications accepted for WHIP+, milk loss, and loss of on-farm stored commodities resulting from eligible disaster (into 2020).
Sept. 20: Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program signup ends.
Dec. 2: Last day to return voted COC Election Ballots to the USDA Service Center (Election ballots will be mailed out Nov. 4).
December 6: Margin Facilitation Program (MFP) sign-ups end.
Within 15 Days – earlier of (A) when a disaster occurred or damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent or (B) normal harvest date for reporting a Notice of Loss for NAP+.
Within 30 Days – when loss is apparent for reporting a Notice of Loss for LIP and ELAP.
TAP - Eligible producers should file for TAP assistance by the later of these two dates - 90 days of the disaster or when damages from the disaster are noticed; or 60 days after the regulation is published on the Federal Register later this summer.

NRCS: Interested in submitting a project proposal for RCPP? Check out these online resources.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced it is accepting proposals from partners for the FY19 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

RCPP eligible partners include private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts and universities.

Partners may request between $250,000 and $10 million in RCPP funding through this funding announcement. Leveraging of this NRCS funding is a key principle of RCPP; partners are expected to make value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding.

Proposals are being accepted from Sept. 3, 2019 through Dec. 3, 2019.

New resources are available online to help guide partners through the application process:

- RCPP Partner Proposal Guide (PDF)
- RCPP Proposal Template (Fillable Word Doc)
- New FY19 RCPP Fact Sheet
- Guidance for Reporting RCPP Outcomes (PDF)
- RCPP Announcement for Program Funding (PDF)

RCPP Contacts in Oregon:

If you are interested in submitting an RCPP proposal in Oregon, please reach out to the local Basin Team Leader in your area to discuss your proposal and next steps:
• North Coast & Upper Willamette Basins: Leo Preston, 503-376-7613.
  Leo.Preston@usda.gov
• Central Coast/Upper Willamette & Southwest Basins: Heather Medina, 541-801-2663.
  Heather.Medina@usda.gov
• John Day/Umatilla & Snake River Basins: Jay Gibbs, 541-676-5021 x112.
  Jay.Gibbs@usda.gov
• High Desert and Deschutes Basins: Kevin Conroy, 541-887-3500.
  Kevin.Conroy@usda.gov

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, Adjusted Gross Income Certification. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Update Your Records

Reminder: FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

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).