

February 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Pennsylvania FSA Newsletter

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### Pennsylvania Farm Service Agency

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Bonnie Wenger, Chair

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### USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Program Deadline Extensions

USDA's Farm Service Agency extended deadlines on many of its programs because of the government shutdown and the emergency nature of many of the programs. Below are updated deadlines:

\*\*\* For details on all program deadlines and extensions, view [FSA National Notice CM-807](#)

#### Farm Programs

- Market Facilitation Program
  - *Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019*
- Marketing Assistance Loans
  - *If loan matured in December 2018, settlement date extended to Feb. 14, 2019*

Doug Graybill

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Bill Hoover

**Division Chiefs:**

Rebecca Csutoras  
Farm Programs

David Poorbaugh:  
Farm Loan Programs

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county. For local FSA service center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.usda.gov>

**Dates to Remember:**

**February 14, 2019:** NAP Application for Coverage Deadline for Maple Sap (Basic Coverage Only)

**February 14, 2019:** Final Reporting Date for Honey, Apples, Grapes, Peaches, Pears

**February 14, 2019:** Deadline for MFP enrollment

**February 18, 2019:** Federal Holiday

**March 15, 2019:** Crop Insurance and NAP Deadline for Spring Planted Crops

- *Peanut loans or Loan Deficiency Payments - loan availability date now Feb. 28, 2019*
- Emergency Conservation Program
  - *Performance reporting due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Livestock Forage Disaster
  - *2018 application for payment due Feb. 28, 2019*
- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program
  - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Livestock Indemnity Program
  - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
  - *Submitting 2019 application for coverage due Feb. 14, 2019*
  - *Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable) due Feb. 14, 2019*
  - *Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres due Feb. 14, 2019*
  - *Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Tree Assistance Program
  - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
- Acreage Reporting
  - *January reporting deadlines extended to Feb. 14, 2019: Honey, Apples, Grapes, Peaches, and Pears*

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## Market Facilitation Program – Deadline Feb. 14

### Market Facilitation Program – Deadline Feb. 14

The last day to submit your Market Facilitation Program (MFP) application is Feb. 14, 2019. The final day to certify 2018 production is May 1, 2019.

Producers of corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, dairy, hogs, fresh sweet cherries and shelled almonds may be eligible to sign up for an MFP payment. MFP is designed to help producers significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Contact your local FSA county office for more details to apply or visit [www.farmers.gov/MFP](http://www.farmers.gov/MFP).

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## New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

*Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once*

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and ranchers time.

Producers must still visit both their local FSA office and their insurance provider to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps, or provide program-specific information, including reporting uninsured crops to FSA. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as **FSAFarm+**, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019 must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent. *Producers who were prevented from reporting losses during the government shutdown have until Feb. 14, 2019, to file a notice of loss.*
- An application for payment by Nov. 1, 2019

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- [ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](#)

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at [www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets).

### **Livestock Inventory Records**

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock

is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office

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## USDA Encourages Producers to Consider NAP 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. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

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.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://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.

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## 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## February 2019 Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans - Direct:	3.750 %
Farm Operating Loans - Microloan:	3.750 %

### Farm Ownership Loans

Direct:	4.125 %
Microloan:	4.125 %
Joint Financing:	2.500 %
Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher:	1.500 %

Emergency Loans:	3.750 %
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### Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 Year Term):	2.500 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 Year Term):	2.500 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 Year Term):	2.625 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 Year Term):	2.750 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 Year Term):	2.750 %

<b>Commodity Loans</b>	3.625 %
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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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