

June 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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A Message from Sandy Chalmers

As I write this, we're moving into the final days of signup for the improved Dairy Margin Protection Plan. As of yesterday, 3,502 producers are enrolled, including 300 producers who have never signed a contract for MPP before.

That tells me that the changes made by Congress – lowering premiums on the first five million pounds, and calculating margins on a monthly basis – make the improved MPP-Dairy a much more attractive program from the producer perspective.

The most frequent question I get from producers is, "When will payments be made?" The answer is that payments will begin to go out the week of June 4.

Some producers are waiting for the announcement of the May margin to make a decision, and many are focused on getting their planting done. We expect a lot of producer traffic through our offices this last week of the sign-up, and we are ready to go. If you call ahead before you stop in, we'll be able to provide you with better customer service.

I'll close with a reminder about annual acreage certification. It's critical that you report your planted acres to maintain FSA program eligibility. So far, we have fully certified more than 18,000 farms, just a little behind last year at this time. We look forward to seeing you, and please know we do everything possible to make acreage certification a quick, efficient process.

Best wishes,

Sandy Chalmers
State Executive Director

Dates to Remember

May 28, 2018:

USDA Service Centers closed in observance of Memorial Day

May 31, 2018:

Last day to obtain a [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) on 2017 coarse grain crops

June 1, 2018:

Last day to enroll in [2018 Dairy Margin Protection Program](#)

June 15-August 1:

[County Committee Election](#) nomination period for Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election. Individuals can nominate themselves or others. Nominate and Vote!

July 16, 2018:

[Acreage reporting deadline](#) for spring-seeded crops; includes forage seeding, crops intended for cover, green manure, or left standing, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres

August 1, 2018:

Deadline to enroll 2018 [Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage](#) (ARCPLC) contracts

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Secretary Perdue Names FSA Administrator

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced today the appointment of Richard Fordyce to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). In his role, Fordyce will provide leadership for FSA and its mission to support agricultural production across America through a network of over 2,100 county and 50 state offices.

Richard Fordyce, a fourth-generation farmer, most recently served as State Executive Director for FSA in Missouri. Prior to his appointment by the Trump Administration, Fordyce served as the director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture from 2013 to 2017. In 2015, Fordyce was awarded the Missouri Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award and the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Alumnus of the Year. He and his wife, Renee, have two children and grow soybeans, corn and beef cattle on the family farm.

For more information about the Farm Service Agency, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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Save Time- Make an Appointment with FSA

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs. Please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

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FSA Releases Signup Information for Tree Assistance Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency recently released signup information for the [Tree Assistance Program](#), a nationwide program that provides orchardists and nursery tree growers with cost share assistance to replant eligible trees, bushes, and vines following a natural disaster.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 prescribed several changes to the program, including the removal of the \$125,000 per person and legal entity payment limitation. The [notice](#) outlined when producers should file applications for any recent losses, given the changes to the program.

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.

The following producers can file applications:

- Producers who did not previously apply for TAP for 2017 or 2018 losses; and
- Producers who had applied and received an adverse determination that their 2017 or 2018 TAP application was filed late.

Additionally, producers with 2017 losses can also file an application or revise an original application because of the changes made through the Act.

For more information on TAP, producers should contact their [local USDA service center](#).

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Time is Running Out: 4 Days Remaining to Enroll in 2018 MPP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds dairy farmers of the June 1 deadline to enroll in the improved [Margin Protection Program for Dairy \(MPP-Dairy\)](#). Many producers will see payments in early June, depending on the coverage they elect.

The program protects dairy producers by paying them based on the difference between the national all-milk price and the national average feed cost. The 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act made several changes to the safety net program to provide better protections for dairy producers from shifting milk and feed prices.

Updates include:

- Calculation of the margin period is monthly rather than bi-monthly.
- Covered production is increased to 5 million pounds on the Tier 1 premium schedule, and premium rates for Tier 1 are substantially lowered.
- An exemption from paying an administrative fee for limited resource, beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged producers. Dairy operators enrolled in the previous 2018 enrollment period that qualify for this exemption under the new provisions may request a refund.

Signup for 2018 will be retroactive to Jan. 1, of this year. Margins for February and March 2018 have already been announced and payments for those months, along with potential payments for April, will be issued in June based on producer elections.

All dairy operations must make new coverage elections for 2018, even if the operation was enrolled during the previous 2018 signup period. Dairy producers should use the [MPP-Dairy Decision Tool](#) for support in making related enrollment decisions.

Time is Running Out: 4 Days Remaining to Enroll in 2018 MPP (continued)

All dairy operations interested in MPP-Dairy coverage must sign up during the enrollment period and submit form CCC-782 to FSA to enroll. Dairy operations may still “opt out” by not submitting a form.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy. Contact your local FSA county office to enroll in the program. To find your local FSA county office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/>.

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USDA Improves Access to Capital for Tribal Farmlands with Multiple Owners

USDA expanded availability of farm loans for Indian tribes and members to purchase tribal farmland that has multiple owners. The improved lending opportunities are possible due to authority granted by the 2014 Farm Bill, which allows USDA to provide revolving loan funds to qualified intermediary lenders that can relend the funds to qualified tribes and individuals.

As a direct result of more than a dozen tribal meetings across the country, USDA is able to implement a solution to a longstanding barrier to financing, which will increase the availability of farm loans to Native Americans who want to start or expand a farming or ranching operation on Indian lands.

Under the 1887 Dawes Act, Indian reservation land was divided and allotted to individual tribal members such that with the passing of each generation, title ownership was divided and parceled among heirs, while the land was not. As a result, land once owned by a single person could today be owned by hundreds or thousands of individuals, resulting in what is known as “highly fractionated Indian land.” In many instances, landowners are unknown or cannot be located, which complicates the coordination of ownership or prevents the use of the property altogether. There are more than 245,000 owners of three million fractionated land interests, spanning approximately 150 Indian reservations.

Under the published rules, USDA will now allow tribes and tribal members to submit a farm loan application to an intermediary lender. To participate, intermediary lenders first must be approved by USDA. The lenders may be private and tribal nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes, or lenders subject to federal or state regulation (such as a credit union or other financial institution). FSA will lend to the intermediary, which will relend to the applicant. The intermediary lender also will administer the loan for the applicant.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or contact the local FSA county office. To find the local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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Loan Interest Rates

*Interest rates are announced at the beginning of each month.

[Click here to find the most recent notice with current FSFL and commodity loan interest rates.](#)

[Click here to view current Farm Loan interest rates.](#)

Farm Loans- MAY 2018

Farm Operating- Direct: 3.625%

Farm Operating- Microloan: 3.625%

Farm Ownership- Direct: 4.125%

Farm Ownership- Microloan: 4.125%

Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership- Down Payment: 1.500%

Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss: 3.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)- MAY 2018

***Note-** FSFL and Commodity loan interest rates are not announced until the first of the applicable month. Interest rates below are subject to change for June 2018 but give a general idea of the interest rate range.

3-year FSFL: 2.500%

5-year FSFL: 2.625%

7-year FSFL: 2.750%

10-year FSFL: 2.875%

12-year FSFL: 2.875%

9-Month Commodity Loans- APRIL 2018

Marketing Assistance Loan: 3.125%

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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).