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CED Comments, Upcoming Dates/Deadlines, and a Few Jokes

Happy New Year! With the winter weather we are having lately, please keep track of any livestock losses and document them thoroughly for any LIP applications. Also, if you do have any losses, please contact the office within 30 days to file a notice of loss.



ARC/PLC- The signup window for ARC/PLC is currently open. Producers have until March 15, 2023 to make an election and sign their contracts for the 2023 crop.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)- Typically we start rolling on CRP after the beginning of the new year. If you are interested in CRP or CRP Grasslands, please contact Jennifer and she will get you any information about a signup as soon as it is announced. We typically have a lot of interest in this program so don't delay in getting your name on the list!

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)- If you have had additional hay purchases or additional hay transportation costs due to the recent drought, please contact Kate about applying for assistance through ELAP. **The deadline to apply for this program is January 30, 2023.**

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)- Goshen County is still paying benefits for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) for 2022 at about \$81 per head for beef. Please begin gathering your livestock documentation and leases. **The deadline for this program is January 30, 2023.** Don't wait until the last minute to apply for this! Please contact Kate or Laurel in the office with questions.

New Programs- There are 2 new programs coming to Goshen County. The Goshen County staff is currently being trained on the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) & Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase II. A signup window has not yet been announced. If you are interested in these programs, please contact the office and we will get you on a list of producers to contact once we know more. Please see the article below for more information on these programs.

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Upcoming Deadlines/Dates:

Jan. 16- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Office Closed
Jan. 19- National Popcorn Day
Jan. 30- Signup Deadline for LFP & ELAP for 2022 Losses
Feb. 20- President's Day- Office Closed
Mar. 1- Signup Deadline for LIP for 2022 Losses
Mar. 15- ARC/PLC Signup Deadline

A Few Jokes to Brighten a Day

Where does a snowman get the weather report? The winternet.

What's the weatherman's favorite food in winter? Burr-itos!
What kind of math do Snowy Owls do best? Owlgebra!
Why did the girl keep her trumpet out in the snow? She liked playing cool jazz.

Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage](#) programs for the 2023 crop year, two key safety net programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Signup began Monday, and producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing payments totaling more than \$255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC.



2023 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2023 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2023, they must sign a new contract.

If producers do not submit their election by the March 15, 2023 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2022 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

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 and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Web-Based Decision Tools

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

- [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator](#), a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.
- [ARC and PLC Decision Tool](#), a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to obtain basic information regarding the decision and factors that should be taken into consideration such as future commodity prices and historic yields to estimate payments for 2022.

2021 Payments and Contracts

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. This month, FSA processed payments to producers enrolled in 2021 ARC-CO, ARC-IC and PLC for covered commodities that triggered for the crop year.

For ARC-CO, producers can view the [2021](#) ARC-CO Benchmark Yields and Revenues online database, for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For PLC, payments have triggered for rapeseed and peanuts.

For ARC-IC, producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information pertaining to 2021 payment information, which relies on producer-specific yields for the crop and farm to determine benchmark yields and actual year yields when calculating revenues.

By the Numbers

In 2021, producers signed nearly 1.8 million ARC or PLC contracts, and 251 million out of 273 million base acres were enrolled in the programs. For the 2022 crop year signed contracts surpassed 1.8 million, to be paid in the fall of 2023, if a payment triggers.

Since ARC and PLC were first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, these safety-net programs have paid out more than \$34.9 billion to producers of covered commodities.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

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 for that farm.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.



Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your GoshenCounty USDA Service Center at 307-532-4880 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (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.

For more information contact, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Ask The Expert: Saving America's Grasslands Q&A with Dr. Dirac Twidwell

In this Ask the Expert, Dr. Dirac Twidwell, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Science Advisor and Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska outlines how landowners can work together to protect and conserve grasslands through conservation. Dr. Twidwell is responsible for conserving grasslands on the Great Plains through science-backed efforts that span ownership boundaries. His research and publications have [identified the largest remaining continuous grasslands in the United States](#) and have outlined a 'call to action' to protect and preserve these invaluable biomes.



He also runs the Large-Scale Rangeland Conservation Lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which focuses on providing a framework for ecosystem management across multiple states. Dr. Twidwell recently co-authored [Reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands: A Guide for Understanding Risk and Vulnerability](#) that provides the first-ever framework for addressing woody encroachment in the Great Plains.

To read the full blog visit farmers.gov/blog/ask-expert-saving-americas-grasslands-qa-with-dr-dirac-twidwell.



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