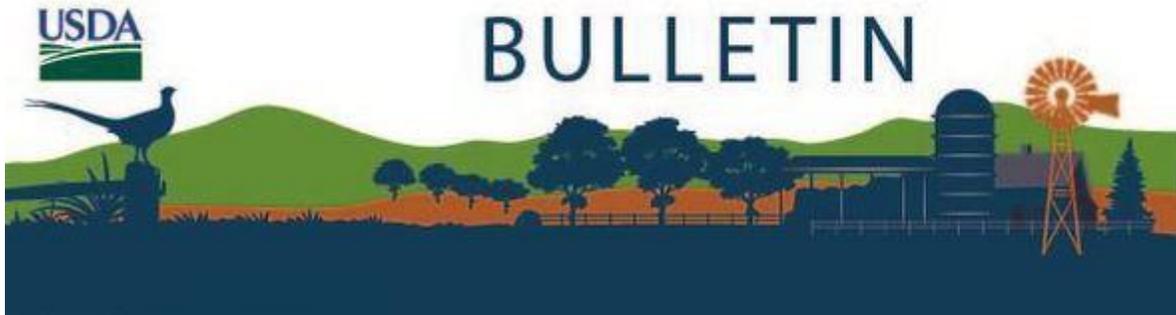


April 2016



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Delaware - Kent County FSA Updates

Kent County FSA Office

County Executive Director:
Maryann Reed

800 Bay Road, Suite 2

Dover, DE 19901

Phone: (302) 741-2600 ext 2

Fax: (855) 401-6678

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Office Program Technicians:

Tammy Foraker

Lauren Huber

Carrie Strachar

Farm Loan Officers:

Colleen Reed

Remember to Report 2016 Crops

All producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Delaware counties:

May 15, 2016: Green Peas, Potatoes

July 15, 2016: Lima beans, Cucumbers (planted 4/20-6/25)

CRP, Corn, Soybeans, and other spring-seeded crops

August 15, 2016: Beans (all types except Limas – planted

4/20-8/10), Cucumbers (Planted 6/26-8/10)

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of

(302) 856-3990 ext. 130

the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Caitlin Sheffer

(302) 856-3990 ext. 107

To be eligible for FSA program benefits, all participants must file a crop acreage report with FSA. Filing an acreage report with a crop insurance agent will not ensure your FSA program eligibility.

County Committee:

Louis Starkey

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the [Kent County Office](#) at (302) 741-2600 ext. 2

Frank Hrupsa

Alfred Moor III

Maria Bobola

Next County Committee Meeting:

May 3, 2016

USDA Removes Farm Program Payments to Managers Not Actively Engaged in Farming

USDA finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provide by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

Since 1987, the broad definition of “actively engaged” resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

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.

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).