

December 2014



Indiana Farm Service Agency Program Updates

Indiana State Farm Service Agency

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From the FSA Farm Fields

Farmers and Friends:

'Tis the season to celebrate faith, family and friendships.

I wish you all the best this holiday season as you engage in festivities around your homes and farmsteads with loved ones.

The implementation of farm programs in the 2014 Farm Bill are well underway in USDA Service Centers across the great state of Indiana. As producers, you have many choices this next year on FSA programs. Our employees stand ready to serve you in our offices. We look forward to working with you in 2015, and beyond for the life of this Farm Bill.

Thank you for the work you do EVERY DAY to feed and fuel this country.

'Tis the season to celebrate American Agriculture.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Indiana Agriculture,

Julia A. Wickard

Coverage Selection for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

Producers have Until March 31, 2015, to Choose the Program Best for their Operation

Farm owners and producers are reminded that the opportunity to choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), began Nov. 17, 2014, and continues through March 31, 2015. The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

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, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Now through Feb. 27, 2015: Farm owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Now through Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election between ARC and PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments issued for 2014 crop year, if needed.

To learn more about which safety net options are most appropriate for specific farming operations, farmers can use new Web tools at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, which can be accessed from the convenience of a home computer or a mobile device at any time. To learn more about upcoming educational meetings, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

FSA Announces New Yield Data for Safety Net Calculations

Farmers can Update Yield History through Feb. 27, 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers farmers new information to update program payment yields that will help them better select protections offered by the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety, offering farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and revenues.

The Farm Bill provides landowners with the option of updating their farm program payment yields and this is the first time that many producers have been able to update yields since 1986. FSA has worked with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to make available certified yield data that producers can use to better calculate how the new safety net programs can offer the best protection against market swings.

Producers can check with their local FSA county office to see if data is available for them. This data belongs to the producer and only the producer associated with the crop insurance records will be provided this service. Updating yield history or reallocating base acres can occur until Feb. 27, 2015.

As a reminder, from now until March 31, 2015, producers will make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years. For more information, producers are encouraged to make an appointment to go into their local FSA county office. To find a local FSA county office, visit www.offices.usda.gov. Additional information on the new programs is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Purdue and FSA Team up for Farm Bill Workshops

Purdue Extension and the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture have partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) of Indiana to host a series of seven free informational meetings on the 2014 Farm Bill. Three of the meetings have been held and the next four are listed below.

To register for the meetings, visit the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture's web site at www.agecon.purdue.edu/commercialag or just type Center for Commercial Ag into your favorite search engine.

Discussion will focus on Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs authorized by the Farm Bill. Crop producers must select one of the new programs, which will replace the direct program payments of previous years.

During the workshops farmers, lenders, and landowners will learn how the new program works and also have a chance to work through some examples so they will better understand how to make program decisions that are best for their individual circumstances. Experts will also explain the process for base reallocation, updating program yields, and program election.

Each session will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

The remaining schedule is:

Jan. 6, 2015: [Honeywell Center](#); 275 W. Market St., Wabash.

Jan. 8, 2015: [Knights of Columbus](#); 624 Delaware Road, Batesville.

Jan. 9, 2015: [Beck Agricultural Center](#); 4540 U.S. 52 W, West Lafayette

Jan. 15, 2015: [Allen County War Memorial Coliseum](#) (Ft. Wayne Farm Show); 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne.

Prior to the start of each Farm Bill Producer Meeting, Indiana Farm Bureau will sponsor a State Ag Policy Lunch program; beginning at 11:30 a.m. Registration information for the lunch is also available at the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture's web site.

Co-sponsors of the Farm Bill Producer Meetings also include Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings should contact Nancy Best at 317-295-5902 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 3 days prior to each meeting.

2014/2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit your local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Indiana:

December 15, 2014: Fall Mint, Fall Seeded Small Grains

January 15, 2015: Apples

July 15, 2015: All Other Crops*

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then 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, then 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.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.
- *Cucumbers and crops for NAP coverage may have dates not included on the chart above. Visit your local county office for details.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

If you feel you have missed a deadline, contact your local county office immediately.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local county FSA 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-National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Announces Upcoming Surveys

Dear Indiana Farmers:

The USDA - NASS will conduct two major surveys to determine 2014 crop acreage and yields for this season. These two surveys, the 2014 Row Crops County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) and the December Agricultural Survey will be used to establish final crop acreage, yield, and production estimates, as well as, winter wheat seedings and grain stock estimates.

The USDA - NASS will contact approximately 10,000 Indiana farmers and ask them to provide their 2014 acreage and crop data. Each report is critical to ensure data reliability. The county estimates that are produced by USDA - NASS each February are set based on data that comes from both of these surveys. This is the same county level yield data that will be used by other USDA Agencies like FSA and RMA.

Most selected farmers have already received a questionnaire in the mail. Those not responding by mail will receive a follow up telephone call or personal visit. Producers receiving questionnaires in the mail are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire promptly. Completing the surveys on the internet is also an option.

Individual reports from farmers are kept confidential and are summarized to set county, state, and national estimates of crop production.

The USDA - NASS estimates based on these surveys will be released on the Quick Stats database as follows. The Crop Production, Grain Stocks, and Winter Wheat Seedings reports based on the December Agricultural Survey will be available Monday, January 12 at 12:00 pm Eastern. County level estimates for corn and soybeans will be available on February 19 at 3:00 pm Eastern.

Thank you for your continued support and contributing to producing reliable estimates in the state of Indiana.

Greg Matli, State Statistician
USDA-NASS
Great Lakes Regional Office - Indiana Field Office

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