

August 2015



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## Ohio FSA State News and Updates

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### USDA Adds More Eligible Commodities for Farm Storage Facility Loans

#### *New Provisions Increase On-Farm Storage for Dairy, Flowers, Meats*

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program, which provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities, will now include dairy, flowers and meats as eligible commodities.

The FSFL program provides affordable financing, allowing farmers and producers to construct or expand storage on the farm and by adding eligible commodities; these low-interest loans will help even more family farmers to expand on-site storage.

The new commodities eligible for facility loans include floriculture, hops, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Commodities already eligible for the loans include corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, Other grains (triticale, speltz, and buckwheat); pulse crops

**Production Adjustment, Compliance and Risk Management Chief:**

Matt Kleski

**State Committee:**

Bob Boggs, Chairperson  
Bob Cole, member  
Bruce Long, member  
Jim Rex, member  
Jim Zumbrink, member

(lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, and fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities.

These loans must be approved by the local FSA state or county committee **before** any site preparation and/or construction can be started.

All loan requests are subject to an environmental evaluation. Accepting delivery of equipment, starting any site preparation, or construction before loan approval, may impede the successful completion of an environmental evaluation and may adversely affect loan eligibility.

Visit Ohio FSA website for additional information at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

View the [FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan fact sheet](#) or visit the [FSA county office](#) to learn more about the program.

Please contact your [FSA County Office](#) for questions specific to your operation.

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## Enrollment Continues for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Safety-Net Programs

Eligible producers can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period began June 17, 2015, and will end **Sept. 30, 2015**.

Covered commodities under ARC and PLC include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

For more information please contact your [County FSA office](#).

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## Farm Loans Available for Beginning and Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and members of targeted underserved groups 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 farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Targeted underserved applicants are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. Targeted underserved groups are Women, African Americans, American

Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and underserved groups.

**Note:** All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in a business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for beginning farmer and targeted underserved groups contact your [FSA county office](#) to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

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## FSA Reminds Producers of Approaching NAP Deadlines for 2016 Crops

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers who are interested in the 2016 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), of the need to apply for coverage by the following crop deadline dates.

- **August 31, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on value loss crops such as for aquaculture, Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, turfgrass sod and watercress.
- **September 4, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on nursery and ornamental nursery.
- **October 1, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on winter wheat, rye, barley and speltz.
- **November 20, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberreries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap and hops. NOTE: Hops is a perennial crop and the application deadline moved from spring to fall for coverage.
- **March 15, 2016** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, Soybeans, Sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The 2014 Farm Bill provides greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. The expanded protection is especially helpful to beginning and socially disadvantaged producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium reductions for expanded coverage.

Eligible producers can apply for 2016 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. The service fee for basic NAP coverage is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Producers interested in buy-up coverage must pay a premium, in addition to the service fee. The maximum premium will be \$6,564.

Producer meeting the definition of a socially disadvantaged farmer, beginning farmer or limited resource farmer will have service fees waived. Producers meeting this definition that choose to purchase buy-up coverage will also have service fees waived and the premium will be capped at \$3,282.

To help producers learn more about the NAP program and how it can help them, USDA, offers an online Web tool at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap). The webtool allows producers to determine whether their

crops are eligible for coverage and gives producers an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation.

For more information on NAP coverage or obtain coverage, please contact your [FSA County office](#).

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## **Are you thinking about selling land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?**

If you plan to sell farmland that's enrolled in the CRP, FSA would like to remind you about the terms and conditions of your contract.

Under the CRP program, the original contract (CRP-1) will need to be revised to reflect the change in participants and/or shares on the contract. The new CRP participant(s) must sign a revised contract within 60 calendar days from the date of notification by the county committee or county executive director. If a revised contract isn't signed within the 60 day timeframe, the contract will be terminated with respect to the affected portions of such land and the original CRP participant will be held liable.

If the new landowner elects not to continue the CRP contract, the contract will be terminated. When a contract is terminated, refund of the following payments plus interest is required from the original CRP participant: all annual rental payments, all cost share payments, sign-up incentive payments, and practice incentive payments. Liquidated damages are also assessed.

Refunds of payments will not be required in cases where the owner's estate or the heirs do not succeed to the contract. There are other cases that do not require the refund of payments, when a participant loses control of the land, such as eminent domain.

Lastly, contact your [County FSA office](#) if you have any questions regarding the terms and conditions of your CRP contract.

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## **Selected Interest Rates for August 2015**

- 90 Day Treasury Bill, -- 0.125%
- Farm Operating Loans, Direct, -- 2.625%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Direct, -- 4.000%
- Limited Resource Loans, -- 5.000%
- Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment, -- 1.500%
- Emergency Loans, -- 3.625%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 year, -- 2.125%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year, -- 2.375%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year, -- 2.500%
- Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year, -- 2.625%
- Commodity Loans, 1996- Present, -- 1.250%

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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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