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## Washington FSA Newsletter

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**Washington State  
Farm Service Agency**  
316 W. Boone, Ste. 568  
Spokane, WA 99201-2350

[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)

**State Committee:**

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Larry DeHaan, Member  
Steve Hair, Member  
Jesus Limon, Member  
Sheryl Hagen-Zakarison,  
Member

**State Executive Director:**  
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**Division Chiefs:**

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Administration  
Rod Hamilton, Programs

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program Provides Drought Assistance

Ranchers in ten Eastern Washington counties may be eligible for financial drought relief from the federal government after the U.S. Drought Monitor reached D2, or a severe drought, for eight consecutive weeks, which coincided during the normal grazing season.

The Farm Service Agency will make Livestock Forage Program payments to eligible ranchers in Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Yakima counties. In these counties, the severe drought coincided with the normal grazing season. LFP payments are in addition to the emergency loans FSA has available for agricultural producers in these and adjacent counties because of a Disaster Designation due to drought.

Mike Mykines, Loans

Please contact your [local FSA office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county.

For drought, LFP payments are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost. Program payments help offset higher costs of purchasing feed or forage. Payment rates depend on the type of livestock, the acres of eligible pasture and normal carrying capacities. For example, a producer with adequate pasture would receive \$40.79 for a mature beef cow. Currently, ranchers in the ten primary counties are eligible for one month of financial assistance. Applications are due to the Farm Service Agency by January 31, 2016.

Producers in additional counties may become eligible for LFP if the drought worsens. County offices will notify producers by electronic GovDelivery bulletins and with the help of local media if additional drought resources become available between newsletter distributions.

To make an appointment or to learn more, contact your local Farm Service Agency [county office](#).

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## Disaster Designations Trigger Emergency Loans

Emergency loans are available in Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Yakima counties due to a June 24 Secretarial Disaster Designation for drought. Eligibility extends to producers in contiguous counties, including: Douglas, Garfield, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pierce, Skamania and Whitman.

The loans are low interest, currently 3.375% percent, with payment terms of up to 40 years. They may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the designation to apply for emergency loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the Emergency Loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. To make an appointment or to learn more, contact your local Farm Service

Agency [county office](#).

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## ARC/PLC Enrollment Underway

FSA county offices are accepting enrollment for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. This is an additional step after completing ARC/PLC selection and base and yield updates. FSA encourages producers to make appointments now, even if you can't get into your local office until a later date. FSA staff will be busy with program signup all summer. Depending on the level of farm complexity, an office visit for ARC/PLC enrollment can be lengthy.

For each year, enrollment needs to reflect the owners and operator on the farm for that year. So the contract participants could differ from 2014 to 2015. Program enrollment runs through **September 30, 2015** at county Farm Service Agency offices. September 30 is also the end of the government's fiscal year so missing the deadline could cause complications for producers who might be expecting a payment.

To make an appointment or to learn more, contact your local Farm Service Agency [county office](#).

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## FSA County Committees and You

With drought conditions throughout the state, FSA county committees are reviewing their local situations and making decisions about federal farm programs that can determine program availability and payments for farmers and ranchers in their communities.

Among many other important decisions, FSA county committees determine if conditions warrant a request for the Emergency Conservation Program and Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Without these requests, FSA does not offer such programs in a county. County committees also provide input on prices that FSA uses for cost-share rates for programs. They make decisions on program eligibility and hear appeals of agency decisions.

FSA is currently seeking nominations for these important county committee positions. All county FSA offices will accept nominations through **August 3, 2015** for this fall's elections.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you

are considered eligible to vote if you have farm records on file with the agency.

Each county committee draws its members from local administrative areas. Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the county's local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year. If you would like to nominate a candidate, or yourself, contact your local [FSA office](#) or check the [LAA map](#) on the FSA website [www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa) to find out which local administrative areas are up for election.

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings.

Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms in January 2016. FSA will send ballots to all eligible voters. Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from any [FSA office](#). Nomination forms may also be obtained [online](#).

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## **NAP 2014 Crop Year Production Reporting Deadline Approaches**

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage need to annually report all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements and is used to determine your approved production history for future year NAP participation. Failure to timely report production can negatively affect your future year approved yield for your NAP covered crops. Production information can be provided to your local [county office](#) written or verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form. You will want to submit a signed CCC-452 for each 2014 crop year NAP covered crop by Wednesday, **July 15, 2015**.

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## **Electronic Acreage Reports Available to Share**

FSA is implementing a new policy to provide producers reporting crop acreage the option to obtain an electronic copy of your acreage report data for yourself and/or to share your acreage reporting data by e-mail with other parties. You may elect to share your acreage reporting data with multiple recipients, such as crop insurance companies, agents, and attorneys. County Offices shall only offer the option for current year acreage reports.

Contact your local [county office](#) to request an electronic copy of your acreage report, FSA-578 Producer Print, for yourself or to share. You must provide FSA staff with the name and e-mail address of any recipient you want to receive an electronic copy of your acreage report data.

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## **Conservation Reserve Program Expiring Contracts**

Producers with CRP contracts expiring this September should have received a letter by now explaining your options. For Continuous CRP and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), contracts can be re-enrolled if all eligibility criteria are met. For general CRP, you can get a one-year extension if your contract has been in effect for 14 years or less.

Washington has 78,000 acres of expiring general CRP that is not eligible for an extension because the contract is at 15 years. Landowners with expiring CRP contracts face a variety of alternatives for managing the land. Expiring CRP options and the applicable considerations are

detailed in an online brochure at [www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/crp\\_takeout.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_takeout.pdf).

The next CRP General Signup will be December 1, 2015, through February 26, 2016.

The Conservation Reserve Program celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. Find out more at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crpis30](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crpis30).

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## **Farm Storage and Facility Loans Offer Alternative Source of Financing**

Unlike other FSA loan programs, the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program does not require that applicants be unable to get commercial credit. The program makes it easier for farmers and ranchers to finance the equipment you need to grow and expand.

Originally designed for grain growers, the Farm Loan Facility Program also helps specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers have access to needed capital for a variety of supplies including sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety-related equipment. Farm Storage Facility Loans include more flexibility for determining storage needs for fruit and vegetable producers. Also, waivers are available on a case-by-case basis for crop insurance requirements if available products are not relevant or feasible for a particular producer.

Additionally, Farm Storage Facility Loans security requirements have been eased for loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Previously, all loans in excess of \$50,000 required a promissory note and additional security, such as a lien on real estate.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables. For more information, contact local [FSA office](#).

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## **Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy Producers Annual Coverage Election Begins**

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

Beginning July 1, 2015 dairy operations can select your 2016 calendar year level of coverage. MPP-Dairy offers different levels of coverage for dairy operations to choose from each year. The basic coverage level of \$4.00 per hundredweight on 90 percent of the dairy operation's production history is available for the \$100 annual administrative fee. You have the option to choose a higher level of coverage by paying the administrative fee plus a premium based on level of coverage selected. The higher levels of coverage range between \$4.00 and \$8.00 per hundredweight in \$0.50 increments. Producers, who choose the premium option, may select to cover a percentage of their production history, ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments.

A web-based decision tool is available to help you compare options and decide what level of coverage will provide the best coverage to manage your financial risk associated with low milk prices or high feed costs that may occur during the 2016 calendar year. The decision tool can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool). The web-based tool allows you to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate your coverage needs based on price projections. You can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, Smartphone, tablet or any other platform, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can submit your 2016 coverage election to the local county FSA office beginning on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. The \$100 annual administrative fee must be paid and the 2016 coverage election must be made by no later than September 30, 2015. Contact your FSA county office for more information about MPP-Dairy or the web-based decision tool.

- **Aug. 3** - Deadline to submit nominations for county committee elections
- **July 1 to Sept. 30** - MPP-Dairy enrollment
- **Sept. 30** – Deadline to sign ARC and PLC contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.

### Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for 2015 Crop Year

- **July 15, 2015** - Spring-seeded crops, CRP, NAP covered crops

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