

November 2014



Oklahoma FSA Program Updates and Reminders

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Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee Members:

Cletus Carter, Beaver
(Chairman)
Steve Nunley, Marlow
Brenda Neufeld, Fairview
Steve Butler, Wagoner
Jo Jennings, Depew

State Staff:

Phil Estes,
Farm Loan Programs

Tona Huggins,
Production & Payment
Eligibility

Rod Wanger,
Conservation Programs

Danny Lee,
Compliance & Price Support

Krey Reimer,
Administration

Shelly Bilderback,
Public Relations/Outreach

USDA/OSU Farm Bill Meetings Continue

Producers are encouraged to attend one of the Farm Bill Informational Meetings being held across the state. Discussion items at each meeting will include Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), ARC/PLC Decision Tools, Base Reallocation and Yield Update, Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and other USDA programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Meetings currently scheduled include:

- **Durant - Dec. 1 - 3:30 p.m.** - Bryan Co. Fairgrounds
- **Clinton - Dec. 2 - 5:30 p.m.** - Custer Co. Fairgrounds
- **Frederick - Dec. 3 - Noon** - Great Plains Tech Center
- **Miami - Dec. 4 - 9:30 a.m.** - Ottawa Co. Courthouse Annex
- **El Reno - Dec. 8 - 1:00 p.m.** - RCC, Darlington Campus
- **Pryor - Dec. 9 - 5:30 p.m.** - Northeast Tech Center
- **Sayre - Dec. 10 - 9:00 a.m.** - Beckham Co. Activity Barn
- **Mangum - Dec. 10 - 2:00 p.m.** - 1st Methodist Church
- **Altus - Dec. 10 - 6:00 p.m.** - Western Okla. State College
- **Cherokee - Dec. 11 - 12:00 p.m.** - Alfalfa Co. Fairgrounds

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the Oklahoma State FSA Office at 405-742-1130 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 three days prior to meeting date.

The dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know are:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.

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. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.CO) and many more USDA programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Save Time - Schedule an Appointment with FSA

To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, **please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set up an appointment.**

Upcoming Important Deadlines:

- **December 1, 2014** - NAP Application closing date for Asparagus, Clover-Forage, Grass-Forage, Honey, Lespedeza, Mixed Forage-Forage, Pecans, Plums.
 - **December 1, 2014** - FSA County Committee Ballots must be returned to local FSA county offices.
 - **December 5, 2014** - Dairy Margin Protection Program enrollment deadline.
 - **January 15, 2015** – Final date for producers to report fall seeded crops/small grains.
 - **January 30, 2015** – Deadline to schedule an appointment to sign up for the Livestock Forage Program, for losses that occurred during 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.
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Farm Bill Allows Early Termination for Certain CRP Contracts

The Farm Service Agency reminds producers with acres under contract through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that they can apply for early contract termination, as required by the 2014 Farm Bill. The deadline to request early CRP contract termination is Jan. 30, 2015.

This is a one-time unique opportunity to request early termination afforded by the 2014 Farm Bill. The effective date of termination may be the date of request or anytime until September 30, 2015. Only CRP contracts with an effective contract start date of October 1, 2009 or earlier are eligible for this opportunity. A request to early terminate all or a portion of the eligible CRP contract will be accepted. The 2014 Farm Bill identifies a list of 10 exceptions whereby land will not be eligible for the early termination provisions. For a complete list of these exceptions, please view the program fact sheet online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_opt_out_fact_sht.pdf

Once a CRP contract termination request is approved by the FSA County Committee, the decision may not be reversed and the terminated contract will not be reinstated. Once the land is no longer considered under the CRP contract all participants must meet HEL/WC and other conservation compliance provisions for all associated lands.

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

USDA Expands Access to Credit to Help More Beginning and Family Farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced improvements to farm loan programs by expanding eligibility and increasing lending limits to help more beginning and family farmers. As part of this effort, USDA is raising the borrowing limit for the microloan program from \$35,000 to \$50,000; simplify the lending processes; updating required "farming experience" to include other valuable experiences; and expanding eligible business entities to reflect changes in the way family farms are owned and operated. The changes became effective Nov. 7, 2014.

The microloan changes will allow beginning, small and mid-sized farmers to access an additional \$15,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay. Microloans are part of USDA's continued commitment to [small and midsized farming operations](#).

In addition to farm related experience, other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm loan eligibility such as operation or management of a non-farm business, leadership positions while serving in the military, or advanced education in an agricultural field. Also, individuals who own farmland under a different legal entity operating the farm now may be eligible for loans administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Producers will have an opportunity to share suggestions on the microloan process, and the definitions of farming experience and business structures through Dec. 8, 2014, the public open comment period.

Farm Loan Interest Rates:

- Farm Operating Loans = 2.625%
- Farm Ownership Loans = 4.000%
- Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans = 1.5%
- Micro Loans = 2.625%
- Youth Loans = 2.625%
- Emergency Loans = 3.625%

*Rates effective as of December 1, 2014

USDA Releases New "Made in Rural America" Report

As part of the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitment to strengthening rural economies, Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new state-by-state "Made in Rural America" report illustrating the impact of USDA investments in rural communities. Each state factsheet highlights specific USDA investments in rural businesses, manufacturing, energy, water and other infrastructure development. They also outline how USDA is helping rural communities attract businesses and families by investing in housing and broadband.

These fact sheets reflect Secretary Vilsack's efforts to strengthen the "four pillars" of a new economy in rural America: developing a robust bio-based economy; promoting exports and production agriculture fueled by increased productivity and research; encouraging conservation including land management, stewardship and outdoor recreational opportunities; and building a strong local and regional food system to harness entrepreneurial innovation and help small and medium-sized family farms succeed in rural America.

The report's state by state fact sheets are available at www.usda.gov/opportunities.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).