

November 2015



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## Oklahoma FSA Newsletter

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### Oklahoma Farm Service Agency

#### Lyndal Stoup

Acting State Executive Director

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

#### 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

### Terry Peach has been appointed as Oklahoma State Executive Director

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency is excited to announce that Terry Peach has been appointed as the new Oklahoma State Executive Director (SED) effective November 29, 2015. Terry Peach is the third generation to operate his family's homestead, established in 1898 in Mutual, Oklahoma. Peach earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University and began his career teaching vocational agriculture education at Cashion High School. Terry started his own business in 1973 called W.W.H. Farm & Ranch Supply. In 1979 he started an oilfield supply company called Woodward Hull that his son now operates. Between 1993 and 2000, Peach served as the USDA Farm Service Agency State Executive Director, where he received the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Leadership and Management. From 2003 to 2011, Peach served as Oklahoma Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture.

Peach has also been an active member of numerous professional associations including the Oklahoma State University Presidents Advisory Board, Oklahoma Farmers Union Insurance Board of Directors, and the Southern Association States Departments of

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

**Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.** FSA Office contact information can be located on our [online Directory](#).

Agriculture. Additionally, Peach has received the Honorary State and National Future Farmers of America Degrees, the Oklahoma Wheat Commission Staff of Life Award, the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Distinguished Service Award, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts President's Award and the USDA Distinguished Service Award.

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## USDA Issues Safety-Net Payments to Oklahoma Farmers Facing Market Downturn

The USDA Farm Service Agency has begun issuing financial assistance for the 2014 crop year to those agricultural producers who are participating in the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new programs, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are designed to protect against unexpected drops in crop prices or revenues due to market downturns.

Unlike the old direct payments program, which provided funds in good years and bad years, these new programs only provide financial assistance when prices or revenues drop below normal. For example, nationwide, farms participating in ARC-County that are receiving payments experienced a \$20 billion drop in revenues relative to the historical benchmark. Similarly, lower prices in commodities such as peanuts and rice have triggered PLC assistance.

Also, please note that funds provided by the ARC-County program can vary from county to county. The 2014 Farm Bill requires ARC-County payments to be calculated using the national average market year price (which does not vary by county), and the average county yield (which varies by county). This creates county-by-county differences in payment rates. The yield data comes from surveys conducted by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the national standard that uses the highest-precision statistical procedures available. Where that data does not exist, the next strongest data is used: county-level crop insurance data from the Risk Management Agency. If that data does not exist, the next strongest data is used: NASS district data. Where NASS district data doesn't exist, the FSA State Committees provide data.

Because the new programs are designed as financial assistance for prices and revenues lower than normal, not all producers will receive a payment, (as occurred with the old direct payments program). ARC/PLC payments are designed to help with unexpected changes in the marketplace, and to supplement other assistance programs, such as crop insurance. To learn more about the data used in calculating payments, how payments are calculated, crop-specific and state-specific information, please visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

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## FSA County Committee Elections Have Begun

Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began mailing ballots to eligible farmers and ranchers across the country for the 2015 FSA County Committee elections on Monday, Nov. 9, 2015. Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by Dec. 7, 2015, to ensure that their vote is counted.

Nearly 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 5 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members apply their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs; conservation programs; indemnity and disaster programs; emergency programs and eligibility.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. Approximately 1.9 million producers are currently eligible to vote. Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

Farmers and ranchers will begin receiving their ballots the week of Nov. 9. Ballots include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. FSA has modified the ballot, making it more easily identifiable and less likely to be overlooked. Voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can pick one up at their local FSA office. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2015. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2016.

For more information, visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). You may also contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA office. Visit <http://offices.usda.gov> to find an FSA office near you.

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## January 15th - 2016 Acreage Reporting Deadline For Small Grains & Canola

As a requirement of program participation, most FSA programs require applicants to report what is planted or what is currently growing on the farms they operate. Various crops and forages, including grasses for grazing have different reporting deadlines. Producers of fall seeded grains (including winter wheat) and canola must submit a 2016 acreage report for those crops by **January 15, 2016**.

Note: Any crop that has Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage must be reported 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland. It is also important to accurately report crops' intended use. Intended use is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised once reported. Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely acreage reports. **Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted and will be charged late fees.**

## **Things to Remember**

- Changes in farming operation – If you have acquired some new land for 2016 you need to notify your administrative county as soon as possible. These changes must be processed before we can accept an acreage report for the subject acres.
- Ensure you are aware of the acreage reporting deadlines and visit our office timely so we can process your acreage report prior to the deadline.
- Don't forget to bring your planting dates when you report your acres.
- You are reporting your intended use, so if your actual use differs from the intended use you originally reported we need to know! Failure to report changes in use can have implications with FSA programs.
- If you have a commercial or residential development (e.g. well sites, disposal ponds, residential or commercial building sites, etc) on acres enrolled in a FSA program and it has not yet been reported, please do so. In most cases we can use current digital imagery to measure impacted acres.

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## **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 Noninsured 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. For hand harvested crops, losses must be reported within 72 hours of a loss becoming 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.

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## **2015 Livestock Disaster Assistance Available**

Livestock producers in eligible counties are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their local FSA office to sign up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) which provides payments to eligible livestock producers for grazing losses due to drought, or fire on federal lands.

Producers located in Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Johnston, Marshall, and Pushmataha counties are now eligible 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Producers in Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cimarron, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Love, Major, McCurtain, Noble, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Roger Mills, Stephens, Texas, Tillman, Tulsa, Washita, Woods, and Woodward counties are still eligible for assistance.

2015 eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and submit the required supporting documentation no later than February 1, 2016.

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# Oklahoma Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Local Offices Issue Receipts for Services Provided

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Farm Loan Interest Rates:

- Farm Operating Loans = 2.375%
- Farm Ownership Loans = 3.750%
- Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans = 1.5%
- Micro Loans = 2.375%
- Youth Loans = 2.375%
- Emergency Loans = 3.375%

\*Rates effective as of December 1, 2015

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## Upcoming Important Dates:

- **December 1, 2015** - NAP Application closing date for Asparagus, Clover-Forage, Grass-Forage, Honey, Lespedeza, Mixed Forage-Forage, Pecans, Plums.
  - **December 1, 2015** - Start of CRP General Sign-Up 49
  - **December 7, 2015** - FSA County Committee Ballots must be returned to local FSA county offices.
  - **January 15, 2016** – Final date for producers to report fall seeded crops/small grains.
  - **February 1, 2016** – Deadline to schedule an appointment to sign up for the Livestock Forage Program, for losses that occurred during 2015.
  - **February 26, 2016** - Deadline to make offer for CRP General Sign-Up 49
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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).