



Farm Service Agency

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ohio FSA State Newsletter - June 16, 2025

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A Message from the Ohio FSA State Executive Director

On June 2, 2025, I was appointed by the Trump Administration and officially joined the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Ohio to serve as the new State Executive Director (SED). As SED, I will oversee the delivery of FSA programs to agricultural producers in Ohio. This includes commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs to ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for all Americans.

Recently the USDA FSA announced and began issuing emergency relief payments through the [Emergency Livestock Relief Program \(ELRP\)](#) to producers who have

approved applications through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for grazing losses due to the severe drought Ohio in 2024. Livestock producers can receive payment for 2024. USDA will leverage existing LFP data to streamline payment calculations and expedite relief. **Emergency relief payments are automatically issued for producers who have an approved LFP application on file for 2024. For additional details, please read our news article below.**

FSA opens the nomination period on June 16 for the [2025 FSA County Committee elections](#). Each county office is looking for producers to serve on the local county committee. County committees are unique to FSA and serve as a direct link between agricultural communities across the country and USDA. Producers who serve on committees work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Are you interested? Contact your [FSA County office](#) to see which area in your county is up for election or view the [GIS locator tool](#) to locate their LAA. Nomination forms can be found at fsa.usda.gov/elections or from any FSA County office.

The acreage reporting deadline for corn, soybeans and most other spring planted crops is July 15 in Ohio. **Reporting prevented planting on any of these crops, has also been extended to July 15 as well. July 15th is the final date to submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Soybeans and Corn to be filed.** However, this extension is not applicable for crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). If you have NAP crops, please work with your FSA County office to timely report notice of losses, including failed acreage. I also highly recommend calling your FSA County office to make an appointment. Making an appointment will save you time by ensuring someone is available to work with you when you visit the [FSA County office](#).

Our FSA County offices continue to be busy with acreage certification, and they need to hear from you as soon as you are finished with planting. Please note we also need to know about any acres you are unable to plant due to weather circumstances. Ohio has thousands of customers to get through the acreage reporting process before the **July 15 deadline**, so the sooner you contact your FSA County office, the better. This includes those of you with perennial forage (pasture) and CRP acres.

Additional program details and more in-depth information is provided in our newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact your [FSA County office](#) for questions about our programs, loans and information that is included in this newsletter edition.

Respectfully,

Don Jones

State Executive Director, Ohio FSA

USDA to Provide \$1 Billion to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire in 2023 and 2024

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the release of Congressionally mandated Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) payments to cover grazing losses due to eligible drought or wildfire events in 2023 and/or 2024.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is leveraging existing Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) data to streamline payment calculations and expedite relief. Emergency relief payments are automatically issued for producers who have an approved LFP application on file for 2023 and/or 2024.

The *American Relief Act, 2025*, provided funds for emergency relief payments. This program is the first of two programs authorized to assist with eligible losses suffered by livestock producers. FSA will announce additional ELRP assistance for other losses authorized by the Act, including flooding, later this summer.

ELRP Eligibility

ELRP payment eligibility requires livestock producers to have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during 2023, 2024 or both calendar years, and have applied and been approved for LFP.

Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was reduced due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP, if they applied and were approved for LFP in 2023, 2024 or both calendar years.

To streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP benefits, producers are not required to submit an application for payment; however, they must have the following forms on file with FSA:

- [CCC-853](#), *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application*
- [Form AD-2047](#), *Customer Data Worksheet*.

- [Form CCC-902](#), *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- [Form CCC-901](#), *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- [Form FSA-510](#), *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable). This form is required to be on file for both 2023 and 2024 to be eligible for the payment limitation exception.
- [SF-3881](#), *Direct Deposit*.
- [AD-1026](#), *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, likely have these forms on file. However, those who are uncertain and want to confirm the status of their forms, can contact their [local FSA county office](#).

ELRP Payment Calculation

To expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP payment, FSA uses livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer on the CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application* form, for 2023, 2024 or both calendar years.

ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer's gross LFP calculated payment for the calendar year multiplied by an ELRP 2023 or 2024 payment factor to determine the total gross ELRP payments for 2023 and/or 2024. The initial payment factor for 2023 and 2024 ELRP payments is 35%. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Timeline

USDA is fully committed to expediting remaining disaster assistance provided by the *American Relief Act, 2025*. On May 7, we launched our [2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page](#) where the status of USDA disaster assistance and block grant rollout timeline can be tracked. The page is updated regularly and accessible through fsa.usda.gov.

The Act also authorized \$10 billion in economic loss assistance to producers of covered commodities based on 2024 planted and prevented planted acres. To date, USDA has delivered more than \$7.7 billion to producers through the [Emergency](#)

[Commodity Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#). The ECAP deadline is Aug. 15, 2025. Contact your local FSA county office for information.

To learn more visit the [ELRP website](#).

When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, FSA would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application.

Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent, so the loss can be appraised, and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

Celebrating 25 Years of USDA's Farm Storage Facility Loan Program



The FSA celebrated 25 years of the agency's popular Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) this May. For a quarter century, family-owned agricultural operations have received low-interest financing through the program to enhance or expand their operations and manage marketing of the commodities they produce by building or upgrading permanent and portable storage facilities and purchasing needed handling equipment.

The FSFL program was created in May 2000 to address existing on-farm grain storage needs. Since the program's inception, more than 40,000 loans have been issued for on-farm storage, increasing storage capacity by one billion bushels. While many producers primarily associate the program with grain storage, over the past 25 years the eligible storage has expanded to include a wide variety of facilities and related equipment - new or used and permanent or portable - including hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying, handling and storage equipment is also eligible, including skid steers and storage and handling trucks.

Eligibility

Eligible commodities for storage loans include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, hemp, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, seed cotton, wool, maple sap, maple syrup, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, unprocessed meat and poultry, rye and aquaculture. Most recently,

controlled atmosphere storage was added as an eligible facility and [bison meat](#) has been also added to the list of eligible commodities.

FSFL is an excellent financing program to address on-farm storage and handling needs for small and mid-sized farms, and for new farmers. Loan terms vary from three to 12 years. The maximum loan amount for storage facilities is \$500,000. The maximum loan amount for storage and handling trucks is \$100,000.

In 2016, FSA introduced a new storage loan category, the microloan, for loans with an aggregate balance up to \$50,000. Microloans offer a 5% down payment requirement, compared to a 15% down payment for a regular FSFL, and microloans waive the regular three-year production history requirement.

How to apply

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA county office that maintains a producer's farm records. Producers can contact their [FSA County Office](#) to make an appointment. Beginning farmers who haven't worked with FSA can visit farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers for more information or view the [New Farmers Fact Sheet](#).

For more information, visit the [FSFL webpage](#), view the [fact sheet](#) and our [Ask the Expert Blog](#), or contact your [FSA County Office](#).

2025 Acreage Reporting Dates

To comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact their FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Ohio:

July 15, 2025 --- Report all your Burley Tobacco, Cabbage (Planted 3/19/25-5/31/25), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other crops. Report Perennial Forage Crops. Report Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

Aug. 15, 2025 --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/25-7/20/25).

Sept. 30, 2025 --- Report Aquaculture.

Dec. 15, 2025 ---- Report Fall-Seeded 2026 crops, Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

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.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

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 have applied for organic certification and do not receive it before the acreage reporting deadline, you may provide the necessary documentation to FSA immediately upon receipt from the certifying agent.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with your FSA office for more information on continuous certification.

New Option to View, Print and Label Maps on Farmers.gov

Producers with a login.gov account (formerly eAuth) linked to their USDA customer record can now access their FSA farm records, maps and common land units by logging into farmers.gov. A new feature will allow producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries. This will allow producers to view, print and label their own maps for acreage reporting purposes.

Producers who have authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via form FSA-211 Power of Attorney, Business Partner Signature Authority, along with other

signature types, or as a member of a business can now access information in the farmers.gov portal.

Producers can learn how to use the farmers.gov Farm Records Mapping functionality with this [fact sheet](#) and these [video tutorials](#).

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your [County FSA office](#).

Nominations Now Open for Farmers and Producers to Serve on USDA FSA County Committees

Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and producers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program.
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agriculture community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Urban and Suburban County Committees

FSA urban county committees work to promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of growing urban communities.

The 27 cities with urban county committees are listed at fsa.usda.gov/elections and farmers.gov/urban.

More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center **by the Aug. 1, 2025, deadline**. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2025.

USDA Expediting \$10 Billion in Direct Economic Assistance to Agricultural Producers

Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

Authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, these economic relief payments are based on planted and prevented planted crop acres for eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year. To streamline and simplify the delivery of ECAP, FSA will begin sending pre-filled applications to producers who submitted acreage reports to FSA for 2024

eligible ECAP commodities soon after the signup period opened on March 19, 2025. Producers do not have to wait for their pre-filled ECAP application to apply. They can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to apply using a login.gov account or contact their local FSA office to request an application once the signup period opens.

Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates

The commodities below are eligible for these per-acre payment rates:

Wheat - \$30.69

Corn - \$42.91

Sorghum - \$42.52

Barley - \$21.67

Oats - \$77.66

Upland cotton & Extra-long staple cotton - \$84.74 Rapeseed - \$23.63

Long & medium grain rice - \$76.94

Peanuts - \$75.51

Soybeans - \$29.76

Dry peas - \$16.02

Lentils - \$19.30

Small Chickpeas - \$31.45

Large Chickpeas - \$24.02

Eligible oilseeds:

Canola – \$31.83

Crambe – \$19.08

Flax - \$20.97

Mustard - \$11.36

Safflower - \$26.32

Sesame - \$16.83

Sunflower – \$27.23

Producer Eligibility

Eligible producers must report 2024 crop year planted and prevented planted acres to FSA on an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage* form. Producers who have not previously reported 2024 crop year acreage or filed a notice of loss for prevented planted crops must submit an acreage report by the Aug. 15, 2025, deadline. Eligible producers can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap for eligibility and payment details.

Applying for ECAP

Producers must submit ECAP applications to their local FSA county office by Aug. 15, 2025. Only one application is required for all ECAP eligible commodities nationwide.

ECAP applications can be submitted to FSA in-person, electronically using [Box and One-Span](#), by fax or by applying online at fsa.usda.gov/ecap utilizing a secure login.gov account.

If not already on file for the 2024 crop year, producers must have the following forms on file with FSA:

- [Form AD-2047](#), *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- [Form CCC-901](#), *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- [Form CCC-902](#), *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- [Form CCC 943](#), *75 percent of Average Gross Income from Farming, Ranching, or Forestry Certification* (if applicable).
- [AD-1026](#), *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.
- [SF-3881](#), *Direct Deposit*.

Except for the new CCC-943, most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, likely have these forms on file. However, those who are uncertain and want to confirm the status of their forms or need to submit the new Form-943, can contact their [local FSA county office](#).

If a producer does not receive a pre-filled ECAP application, and they planted or were prevented from planting ECAP eligible commodities in 2024, they should contact their [local FSA office](#).

ECAP Payments and Calculator

ECAP payments will be issued as applications are approved. Initial ECAP payments will be factored by 85% to ensure that total program payments do not exceed available funding. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

ECAP assistance will be calculated using a flat payment rate for the eligible commodity multiplied by the eligible reported acres. Payments are based on acreage and not production. For acres reported as prevented plant, ECAP assistance will be calculated at 50%.

For ECAP payment estimates, producers are encouraged to visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to use the ECAP online calculator.

Local Agriculture Market Program

The [Local Agriculture Market Program](#) funding opportunities, the [Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#), the [Local Food Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#), and the [Regional Food System Partnerships Program \(RFSP\)](#), are now accepting applications. These funding opportunities support the development, coordination, and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing and local & regional food markets and enterprises. **This annual opportunity will be open until June 27, 2025.**

USDA offers a streamlined grants process for LFPP and FMPP applicants applying for marketing and promotion focused projects and a streamlined option for training and recruitment projects. Visit the link below for more information and to view the Request for Applications (RFA) of all three programs. [Learn more about LAMP.](#)

Mythbusting for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Myth: You must own land to participate in USDA programs.

Fact: You do not have to own land to participate in USDA programs. As long as you can provide proof you and the owner have an agreement through a lease or signed letter, you are able to register as a USDA customer and submit program applications.

You do have to be in business to make a profit. Personal gardens and nonprofit organizations that donate the harvests are not eligible for FSA program participation.

Find more Beginning Farmers and Ranchers information at <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>

FSA Provides Direct Loan Borrowers Additional Assistance through Distressed Borrower Set-Aside (DBSA) Program

The Distressed Borrower Set-Aside Program (DBSA) provides certain USDA FSA direct loan borrowers the opportunity to set-aside one loan payment to the end of the loan term if they are unable to make their scheduled installment. DBSA results in the borrower accruing significantly reduced interest and allows them to become current on their loans and continue farming.

When a borrower indicates they are in financial distress, or when they become 90 days past due on an FSA direct loan, they are notified of the availability of the Distressed Borrower Set-Aside Program (DBSA). Payments that are set-aside must be repaid prior to the final maturity of the note, with any principal set-aside accruing interest at a reduced rate of 0.125% until it is repaid or restructured.

Eligibility to receive the DBSA will primarily be determined based on the following criteria:

- The loan receiving the DBSA was outstanding as of September 25, 2024.
- The borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to FSA and other creditors;
- The borrower must have acted in good faith and complied with written agreements with FSA;
- The borrower must not be in nonmonetary default;
- The borrower must be current or not more than 150 days past due on any FSA loan when the DBSA application is completed.
- No loan to be set-aside may have a remaining term of less than two years;
- DBSA cannot be used with a concurrent Primary Loan Servicing action;
- Loans must not be accelerated;
- After the DBSA is completed, the borrower will be current on all FSA loans;
- The amount set aside will not exceed one year's payment on the FSA loan;
- No loan may have more than one active set-aside at a time; and
- The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

For additional information on the Distressed Borrower Set-Aside Program, or to apply for DBSA, borrowers should contact their USDA FSA Farm Loan official to setup an appointment.

June Loan and Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans, Direct	-- 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct	-- 5.750%
Limited Resource Loans	-- 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment	-- 1.750%
Farm Ownership – Joint Financing	-- 3.750%
Emergency Loans	-- 3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 3 year	-- 3.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 5 year	-- 4.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 year	-- 4.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year	-- 4.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year	-- 4.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year	-- 4.750%
Commodity Loans	-- 5.000%

Dates to Remember

June 16 --- County Committee Nomination Period begins.

June 19 --- Juneteenth National Independence Day. **USDA Service Center Closed.**

July 4 ----- Independence Day Holiday. **USDA Service Center Closed.**

July 15 ---- **Final Date to submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Soybeans and Corn to be filed.**

July 15 ---- End of primary nesting season for CRP program purposes.

July 15 ---- Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops. Report perennial forage crops. Report Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

July 15 ---- Final Date to Report Production for the preceding Crop Year for Farms Enrolled in ARC-IC.

July 31 ---- FSA is accepting offers for Continuous CRP through July 31, 2025. Offer acceptance is subject to availability of acres.

August 1 --- **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

August 1 --- **Deadline** to Request farm reconstitutions and transfers for 2024.

August 15 – **Deadline** for producers to submit applications for ECAP.

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Ohio FSA State Office

200 North High Street, Room 540
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-255-2441

Visit the Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

State Executive Director:

Don Jones

Deputy State Executive Director:

Traci Garza

Administrative Officer:

Stephanie Moran

Conservation Chief:

Brandi Koehler

Farm Loan Chief:

Andrew Huey

Price Support Chief:

Trevor Kerr

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

Matt Kleski