Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ohio FSA State Newsletter - July 10, 2025

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A Message from the Ohio FSA State Executive Director

Summer is a busy time of year for farmers and producers as well as your FSA county office. The certification deadline for spring-seeded crops, perennial forage (pastures) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is **July 15**. Please remember we also need to know of failed crops prior to disposition.

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 report notice of losses, including failed acreage.

FSA County Committee election season continues. If your local administrative area is holding an election this year, the deadline for submitting a nomination is **August. 1**. County Committees are important as they oversee the functions of county FSA offices

and provide input on programming and local agricultural issues. For more information on this opportunity, read the article below and contact your local FSA office.

FSA is rolling out a suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance programs. Here's a quick rundown:

- The **Emergency Commodity Assistance Program** (ECAP) sign-up runs through **August 15, 2025**. ECAP payments are based on your 2024 planted and prevented planted acres. In Ohio, payments were made primarily on corn, soybeans, oats and wheat. We've already approved **over 26,000 applications for $254 million**, so this is a reminder to those who haven't submitted their application.
- The **Emergency Livestock Relief Program** (ELRP) for drought provides Ohio assistance for losses due to drought in 2024. Payments have already been issued to producers who had an approved Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) application on file for 2024. In Ohio, we've made over **$11 million in** payments to over 6,200 applications on file.
- The **Supplemental Disaster Relief Program** (SDRP) will provide assistance to producers with revenue, quality or production losses due to weather-related events in 2023 and 2024. For producers with indemnified losses, sign-up opens July 10.

Lastly, I also highly recommend calling your FSA county office to make an appointment. Making an appointment saves you time and our staff can prepare for your visit.

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

Respectfully,

Don Jones
State Executive Director, Ohio FSA

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 calendars 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 Open for the 2025 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members and encourages all farmers, producers, and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. Customers can identify which LAA they or their farming or ranching operation is in by using our GIS locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

County committee members 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.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching 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 minority producers, women, and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of 3 to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

For more information on FSA county committee elections, including fact sheets, nomination forms and FAQs, visit fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Prevented Planting Deadline Extended for 2025 Spring Seeded Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the prevented planting crop reporting deadline for producers affected by spring flooding, excessive moisture, or qualifying drought.

Producers who intended to plant this spring, but were unable due to weather conditions, now have until the acreage reporting deadline for the applicable crop being claimed as prevented planting. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

Producers need to report prevented planting acres to retain eligibility for FSA program benefits. Normally, the prevented planting reporting deadline is 15 calendar days after the final planting date for a crop as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The prevented planting reporting deadline extension only applies to FSA and does not change any RMA crop insurance reporting deadline requirements.

The extension does not apply to crops covered by FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers should check with their local FSA office regarding prevented planting provisions for NAP-covered crops.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office as soon as possible to make an appointment to report prevented planting acres and submit their spring crop acreage report. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Producers with Individual Agriculture Risk Coverage Reminded to Report Yields

Producers who elected Individual Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC-IC) are required to report yields annually to FSA. The final date to report production from the prior crop year for farms enrolled in ARC-IC **is July 15**. The ARC Program is an income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level.

ARC-IC program payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenue for all covered commodities planted on the ARC-IC farm is less than the ARC-IC guarantee for those covered commodities. ARC-IC uses producer's certified yields, rather than county level yields. ARC-IC payments are dependent upon the planting of covered commodities on the farm. A producer's ARC-IC farm is defined as the sum of the producer's interest in all ARC-IC enrolled farms in the state. Producers with all farms

enrolled in County Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage are not required to report production from the prior crop year.

For more information contact your FSA County office.

Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read Your FSA Farm Loan Compass.

Making Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current fiscal year, farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the fiscal year** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all of the required signatures are on FSA-155 and all other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

For questions on your farm reconstitution, contact your County FSA.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing up to $10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. 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.

Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates

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

Wheat - $30.69 **Eligible oilseeds:**

Corn - $42.91

Sorghum - $42.52

Barley - $21.67

Oats - $77.66

Upland cotton & Extra-long staple cotton - $84.74

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

Canola – $31.83

Crambe – $19.08

Flax - $20.97

Mustard - $11.36

Rapeseed -$23.63

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.

Ohio Division of Wildlife and the National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative Foundation Host Webinar Focusing on NEW Wildlife Habitat Initiative

The Ohio Division of Wildlife and the National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative Foundation (NBGIF) will host a webinar focusing on a NEW Wildlife Habitat Initiative (WHI).

The purpose of this web event is to introduce and explain the Wildlife Habitat Initiative which will be available to farmers and landowners statewide by July 22nd. This new conservation program is funded by USDA-NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and administered and implemented by the National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative Foundation, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and 20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Featured items will cover applicant eligibility, conservation practices, incentive payments, priority areas, role of local conservation

office staff and partners, and other supporting information. See attached fact sheet for details.

Questions regarding this webinar should be directed to Matt Gardner matthew.gardner@nbgif.org with the NBGIF and John Kaiser john.kaiser@dnr.ohio.gov with the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Use the link below to join the event on Microsoft Teams **July 21st from 1:00-2:30pm**.

Join the Live Teams Event

USDA RMA Announces New Margin Coverage Option for Row Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently announced the Margin Coverage Option (MCO) as a crop insurance endorsement for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans and spring wheat in select states for the 2026 and succeeding crop years.

MCO provides growers with area-based coverage against an unexpected decrease in operating margin (revenue minus input costs) caused by reduced county yields, reduced commodity prices, increased prices of certain inputs or any combination of these perils. MCO provides a band of coverage from 86% or 90% to 90% or 95% of the expected crop value.

MCO can be purchased with Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and Stacked Income Protection (STAX) but cannot be combined with the Margin Protection Plan (MP), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) or Hurricane Insurance Protection-Wind Index (HIP-WI).

MCO will be available for six crops: corn, soybeans, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, and spring wheat. The area covered by this MCO pilot will be select counties in the following states:

- **Corn and Soybeans:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and **Ohio**.
- **Cotton and Grain Sorghum:** Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.
- **Rice:** Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas.
- **Spring Wheat:** Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington.

MCO must be purchased as an endorsement to a Yield Protection (YP), Revenue Protection (RP), Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion (RP-HPE) or Actual Production History (APH) plan of insurance.

More Information

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting their RMA Regional Office. RMA's Basics for Beginners provides information for those new to crop insurance.

July Loan and Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans, Direct	-- 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct	-- 5.875%
Limited Resource Loans	-- 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans, Down Payment	-- 1.875%
Farm Ownership – Joint Financing	-- 3.875%
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	-- 4.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 year	-- 4.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 year	-- 4.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans, 15 year	-- 4.625%
Commodity Loans	-- 5.125%

Dates to Remember

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 18* ----- *SPECIAL CRP MESSAGE *FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis, through July 18, 2025. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the July 18 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.*

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.

September 1 - Labor Day Holiday. **USDA Service Center is Closed.**

September 30 - **Deadline** to obtain 2026 NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turf grass Sod and Watercress.

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