June 2019

Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service NEWSLETTER

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North Carolina FSA Newsletter

North Carolina Farm Service Agency

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USDA Announces New Decision Tool for New Dairy Margin Coverage Program

USDA announced the availability of a new web-based tool – developed in partnership with the University of Wisconsin – to help dairy producers evaluate various scenarios using different coverage levels through the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program.

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized DMC, a voluntary risk management program that offers financial protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. It replaces the program previously known as the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. Sign up for this USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) program opens on June 17.

The University of Wisconsin launched the decision support tool in cooperation with FSA and funded through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist. The tool was designed to help producers determine the level of coverage under a variety of conditions that will provide them with the strongest financial safety net. It allows farmers to simplify their coverage level selection by combining operation data and other key variables to calculate coverage needs based on price projections.

The decision tool assists producers with calculating total premiums costs and administrative fees associated with participation in DMC.

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To find contact information for your local office go to

www.fsa.usda.gov/nc

It also forecasts payments that will be made during the coverage year.

For more information, access the tool at fsa.usda.gov/dmc-tool. For DMC sign up, eligibility and related program information, visit fsa.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Reopens Continuous CRP Signup

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CRP, one of the country's largest conservation programs.

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the continuous CRP signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. Since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill last December, Fordyce said FSA has carefully analyzed the language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

Continuous CRP Signup

This year's signup will include such practices as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. View a full list of practices approved for this program.

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates. Incentive payments will not be offered for these contracts.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Signup

FSA will also reopen signup for existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreements. Fact sheets on current CREP agreements are available on this webpage.

Other CRP Signup Options

FSA will open a CRP general signup in December 2019 and a CRP Grasslands signup later.

CRP Contract Extensions

A one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options.

Alternatively, producers with expiring contracts may have the option to enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which provides two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

More Information

Producers interested in applying for continuous CRP practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who need an extension, should contact their USDA service center beginning June 3. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

If you have crops covered under NAP that are not specifically listed below the crop reporting date is the earlier of the date listed on the National Crop Table (NCT) or 15 days before harvest begins.

Crops not covered under NAP and not specifically listed below have a reporting date of July 15th or within 15 days of planting if planted after July 15th.

2019 Crop Reporting Dates

September 30, 2019	Aquaculture, Grass Sod, All Other Value Loss Crops
November 15, 2018	Clary Sage
January 2, 2019	Honey/Apiculture

January 15, 2019	Apples, Barley, Blueberries, Canola, Grapes, Oats, Peaches, Rapeseed, Wheat and all fall seeded small grains
May 1, 2019	Nursery
May 15, 2019	Cabbage PP1, Beans PP1, Potatoes, Strawberries
July 15, 2019	Corn, Soybeans, Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, Grain Sorghum, CRP, Sweet Potatoes, Perennial grazing and forage, and all other crops and land uses
September 15, 2019	Cabbage PP2, Beans PP2

Late Filed Crop Reports (2-CP paragraph 21)

Late filed crop reports may be taken through the next year's acreage reporting date for the crop when all of the following apply:

1. The producer pays a late fee. a. See 2-CP paragraph 460 for calculating late fees. The STC has determined we will use method 2. b. See 2-CP paragraph 21D for the COC authority to waive late fees. 2. Physical existence of the crop or crop residue exists. a. See paragraph 21A for an exception when RMA data can be used when physical evidence does not exist. 3. The crops use can be verified. 4. The crop's acreage can be verified.

See Notice CP-743 paragraph 5A for the requirement that a late filed crop report must be filed before the subsequent year's acreage reporting date.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2019

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.50%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	3.25%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct	3.87%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.357%
Commodity Loans 1996 - Present	3.375%