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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Ohio FSA State Newsletter

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A Message from the State Executive Director

It's another spring with tough weather conditions. Many producers across the state have been or continue to be impacted by damaging weather conditions. As of June 14, I have submitted a formal request to Secretary Perdue to make an official Secretarial Disaster Declaration for Fulton, Henry and Lucas counties. If Fulton, Henry and Lucas counties receive a primary natural disaster area designation, then this allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters in these three primary counties and for the contiguous counties. [Emergency loans](#) may be available to eligible producers to meet various recovery needs including replacing essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation or refinance certain debts. It is important for producers not farming in these three counties who have experienced a production loss to submit a request to their [FSA County office](#) to be evaluated for a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Price Support Chief:
Mark VanHoose

**Production Adjustment,
Compliance and Risk
Management Chief:**
Matt Kleski

State Committee Members:
Trish Levering, Chair
Ronnie Clifton
Daryl Knipp
Chase Powell
Joe Steiner

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

Please contact your [FSA
County Office](#) for questions
specific to your operation.

[Current FSA Farm
Loan Interest Rates](#)

[Current Commodity Credit
Corporation \(CCC\) Interest
Rates](#)

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts by these damaging weather conditions. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration includes:

- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\) - Farm-Raised Fish Assistance;](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\) - Honeybee Assistance;](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\) - Livestock Assistance;](#)
- [Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\);](#)
- [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\);](#)
- [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) and
- [Farm Loan Program.](#)

For further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs, I would encourage producers to talk with their FSA County office staff to learn more about these programs.

Our FSA offices will be extremely busy for the next couple of months, with acreage reporting and sign-up for the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program, which started June 17. FSA is also accepting applications for certain practices under continuous CRP, we're offering extensions for expiring CRP contracts and reopened the sign-up for the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Please call ahead to your [FSA County office](#) before stopping in. It helps us prepare for your visit, so you can complete your FSA business and be on your way.

Lastly, there are many questions out there about the latest trade assistance program, the disaster bill recently signed by the President, and how prevented planting acres and cover crops are treated. Secretary Perdue provided this [update](#) on June 10 and I encourage all producers to read this information.

Respectfully,

Leonard Hubert

New Dairy Margin Coverage Signup Begins June 17

Signup started June 17 for the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program, the cornerstone program of the dairy safety net that helps dairy producers manage the volatility of milk and feed prices, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The 2018 Farm Bill allowed USDA to construct the new DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). This new program offers 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.

The program provides coverage retroactive to January 1, 2019, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment. At the time of signup, dairy producers can choose between the \$4.00 to \$9.50 coverage levels. [Learn more about coverage levels and premiums.](#)

The Farm Bill also allows producers who participated in MPP-Dairy from 2014-2017 [to receive a repayment or credit for part of the premiums paid into the program](#). FSA has been providing premium reimbursements to producers since last month and those that elect the 75 percent credit option will now have that credit applied toward 2019 DMC premiums.

The Department has built in a 50 percent blend of premium and supreme alfalfa hay prices with the alfalfa hay price used under the prior dairy program to provide a total feed cost that more closely aligns with hay rations used by many producers. At a milk margin minus feed cost of \$9.50 or less, payments are possible. With the 50 percent hay blend, FSA's revised April 2019 income over feed cost margin is \$8.82 per hundredweight (cwt). The revised margins for January, February and March are, respectively, \$7.71, \$7.91 and \$8.66 – triggering DMC payments for each month.

DMC payments will be reduced by 6.2 percent in 2019 because of a sequester order required by Congress and issued in accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DMC offers catastrophic coverage at no cost to the producer, other than an annual \$100 administrative fee. Producers can opt for greater coverage levels for a premium in addition to the administrative fee. Operations owned by limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers may be eligible for a waiver on administrative fees. Producers have the choice to lock in coverage levels until 2023 and receive a 25-percent discount on their DMC premiums.

To assist producers in making coverage elections, USDA partnered with the University of Wisconsin to develop a [DMC decision support tool](#), which can be used to evaluate various scenarios using different coverage levels through DMC.

All dairy operations in the United States are eligible for the DMC program. An operation can be run either by a single producer or multiple producers who commercially produce and market cows' milk.

Eligible dairy operations must have a production history determined by FSA. For most operations, production history is based on the highest milk production in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Newer dairy operations have other options for determining production history. Producers may contact their local FSA office to get their verified production history.

Dairy producers also are reminded that 2018 Farm Bill provisions allow for dairy operation to participate in both FSA's DMC program and the Risk Management Agency's [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM-Dairy\)](#) program. There are also no restrictions from participating in DMC in conjunction with any other RMA insurance products.

For more information, visit [farmers.gov DMC webpage](#) or contact your [FSA County office](#).

Nominations Open for the 2019 County Committee Elections

FSA encourages all farmers and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2019. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

USDA Reopens Continuous CRP Signup

FSA is now accepting applications 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 reopen sign-up for the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

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 [FSA County office](#).

FSA Reminds Producers about the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Environmental Evaluation Requirements

The FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. These loans must be approved by the local FSA state or county committee **before** any site preparation and/or construction can be started.

An environmental evaluation must be completed by FSA prior to all loan approvals to ensure no protected resources would be adversely affected by the proposed FSFL project. Accepting delivery of equipment and/or materials, starting any site preparation, or construction before loan approval, may impede the successful completion of an environmental evaluation and may adversely affect loan eligibility.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, milk, butter, cheese, eggs, yogurt, meat/poultry, aquaculture, hops, and maple sap. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities.

Producers are encouraged to contact their FSA County office or view the [FSFL fact sheet](#) for additional details and information.

Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA FSA reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops

must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Contact your FSA County Office to schedule an appointment to file a *Notice of Loss*.

Dates to Remember

June 3 ---- [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#) reopens.

June 14 -- County Committee Nomination Period begins.

June 17 -- [Dairy Margin Coverage Program](#) signup begins.

July 4 ----- Independence Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

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.

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

Aug. 23 --- 2019 CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) Enrollment application deadline.

Aug. 23 --- 2019 CRP Continuous Enrollment signup and Lake Erie CREP signup deadline.

Aug. 31 --- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turf grass Sod and Watercress.

Sept. 2 ---- Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Sept. 4 ---- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Nursery and Ornamental Nursery.

Sept. 30 --- Deadline to obtain 2020 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

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