

July 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Ohio FSA State Newsletter

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### Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office

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**State Executive Director:**  
Leonard Hubert

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**Farm Loan Chief:**  
David Drake

### A Message from the State Executive Director

We know it has been a long, slow, soggy season for putting crops in the ground. Wet weather has delayed and stopped producers from getting in the fields to plant and to finish up harvest. We'll do our best to work with you on completing important post-planting, FSA-related tasks, including FSA prevented plant and acreage certification reporting. The deadline associated with these two items is **July 22**, and our offices are working hard to get you all through the door as efficiently as possible. To that point, office appointments are critical to completing acreage certification in a timely fashion. If you don't already have an appointment scheduled with your [FSA county office](#) for this purpose, please call and make one as soon as possible. If you already have an appointment scheduled, please do your best to make it into our office at the specified time. Our FSA employees are doing their best to make sure you get all your business taken care of timely as so many of our producers have had to wait to be able to report their acreage. I know I'm very appreciative of all their hard work they do in our offices and the hard work you do in the field.

**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](http://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](#)

USDA is providing flexibility to producers who are struggling through one of the most difficult planting seasons in years. Producers can now harvest or graze cover crops planted on prevented planting acres beginning September 1, and maintain their eligibility for a full 2019 prevented planting indemnity. The harvest date was moved to help producers who are facing a shortage of forage in the fall. Information on prevented planting, cover crops, flooding, and program information is updated regularly on <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/prevented-planting> and your crop insurance agent is also an excellent resource.

Over the past month, I have continued to submit formal requests to Secretary Perdue to make an official Secretarial Disaster Designation and as of today, July 19, *Allen, Auglaize, Brown, Clermont, Crawford, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot* counties are awaiting a decision from Secretary Perdue. If these 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 counties who have experienced a production loss to submit a request to their [FSA County office](#) to be evaluated for a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

We know you're anxious for more information about both the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), as well as the 2018 Farm Bill programs. Secretary Perdue provided this [USDA Farm Bill Implementation Progress update](#) on June 26 and I encourage all producers to read this information. Additional MFP program details should be available soon.

Respectfully,

Leonard Hubert

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## Ohio Producers Impacted by Floods and Heavy Moisture Must Report Spring Seeded Crops by July 22

USDA extended the deadline to report acres for agricultural producers in states impacted by flooding and heavy moisture. This new July 22 deadline applies to producers in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin for reporting spring-seeded crops to USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices and crop insurance agents.

Filing a timely crop acreage report is important to maintaining eligibility for USDA conservation, disaster assistance, safety net, crop insurance, and farm loan programs. A crop acreage report documents all crops and their intended uses and is an important part of record-keeping for your farm or ranch.

Producers filing reports with FSA county offices are encouraged to set up an appointment before visiting the office. Producers who set up appointments before the July 22 deadline are considered timely filed, even if the appointment occurs after the deadline.

Producers not in these select states must file spring-seeded crops by the original July 15 deadline.

### **Other USDA Efforts to Help Producers**

USDA has taken additional steps to help impacted producers, including:

- Updating the haying and grazing date for producers who have planted cover crops on prevented plant acres;
- Offering special sign-ups through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for assistance to plant cover crops; and
- Extending the deadline to report prevented plant acres in certain places.

For more information, visit our [Prevented or Delayed Planting webpage](#) or call your [FSA county office](#) to schedule an appointment to certify acres before the July 22 deadline.

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## **USDA Now Making Payments for New Dairy Margin Coverage Program**

### ***Income-over-feed margin for May triggers fifth payment for 2019***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened enrollment for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program on June 17 and has started issuing payments to producers who purchased coverage. Producers can enroll through Sept. 20, 2019.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, DMC replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). The 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. To date, nearly 10,000 operations have signed up for the new program, and FSA has begun paying approximately \$100 million to producers for January through May.

### **May Margin Payment**

DMC provides coverage retroactive to January 1, 2019, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment.

The May 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$9.00 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the fifth payment for eligible dairy producers who purchase the \$9.50 level of coverage under DMC. Payments for January, February, March and April also were triggered.

With the 50 percent hay blend, FSA's revised April 2019 income over feed cost margin is \$8.82 per cwt. The revised margins for January, February and March are, respectively, \$7.71, \$7.91 and \$8.66.

### **Coverage Levels and MPP Reimbursements**

Dairy producers can choose coverage levels from \$4 up to \$9.50 at the time of signup. More than 98 percent of the producers currently enrolled have elected \$9.50 coverage on up to 95 percent of their production history.

## More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today's updates are part of meeting that goal.

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

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## Ohio FSA Is Hiring at County Office Locations Across the State

The Ohio FSA is seeking qualified candidates for several employment opportunities at county office locations across the state. FSA is looking for dedicated and talented individuals to assist in its mission of partnering with American farmers and producers to attain an economically and environmentally sound future for American agriculture.

Applicants are currently being sought for full-time, permanent County Program Technicians in several offices. County Program Technicians are responsible for carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to the technical assistance and program support related to FSA farm programs. Basic requirements include general office clerical work, record keeping, computer skills, organizational skills and good public relations skills.

The County Program Technician position offers benefits such as health insurance, 401(k) plan, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave and flexible work schedules.

To apply utilize [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) and search for the County Program Technician job announcement number: **FSACO-10550180-OH-19-09B-KW**. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement (July 23, 2019).

The FSA County Program Technician vacancy locations are listed below.

- [Adams County, West Union, Ohio](#)
- [Ashland County, Ashland, Ohio](#)
- [Crawford County, Bucyrus, Ohio](#)
- [Jackson County, Jackson, Ohio](#)
- [Lorain County, Elyria, Ohio](#)
- [Putnam County, Ottawa, Ohio](#)
- [Ross County, Chillicothe, Ohio](#)
- [Stark County, Massillon, Ohio](#)
- [Tuscarawas County, New Philadelphia, Ohio](#)

**All nine County Program Technician positions will close on July 23, 2019.** Applicants interested in learning more about these positions should establish a user profile through [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). Profiles offer the opportunity for interested individuals to search for positions by location and/or job titles, upload searchable resumes, and receive automated vacancy announcement updates.

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## Farmers Encouraged to Sign-Up for the Lake Erie CREP

This is an opportune time to take a look at your farming operation and determine if there are areas that could benefit from the establishment of one or more conservation practices.

For instance, do you have a drainage ditch or stream running through your farm that needs a filter strip? Is a particular field prone to wind erosion and could benefit from a windbreak? How about that one area that is hard to farm because it is always wet? Have you considered how FSA's Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Lake Erie CREP) might benefit your farming operation and help to protect the environment at the same time?

Lake Erie CREP began with the main objective to improve water quality in all of our rivers, streams, and tributaries within the Lake Erie watershed with a special emphasis on the Blanchard and Tiffin Rivers as important tributaries of the Maumee River. These conservation practices will target environmentally- sensitive areas to reduce sediments and nutrients, minimize the risk of flooding, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Conservation is voluntary. It is entirely up to the landowner or farm operator to enroll acres in a particular program. Farmers and landowners may choose from a number of practices including grass filter strips, hardwood tree plantings, wildlife habitat, wetlands and windbreaks that work together to prevent chemicals, soil, and other contaminants from running off of cropland and into waterways. Also, participants can earn money on less economically viable land, such as land along ditch banks, streams, and woodlands.

In exchange for installing and maintaining these practices, you will earn a guaranteed annual rental payment for 14 to 15 years plus receive cost share and potential incentives to cover the majority of the cost of practice installation. The annual payment for the conservation practice will be similar to what is paid for cash rent on the three predominant soils of the CREP practice area. Additional soil rental rate incentives are available as well. Also, FSA can provide you with an estimate of the payments you would be eligible to receive for the duration of the contract period (14-15 years).

The Lake Erie CREP is available in 27 counties including; Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Lorain, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties.

Sign-up for the Lake Erie CREP is going on now through August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interested landowners and operators should contact their [FSA County office](#) or the SWCD office to learn more about Lake Erie CREP.

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## Eligibility for Nominations for the 2019 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA

program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

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's COC website](#).

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## Dates to Remember

**July 22** ---- 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. 20** --- Deadline to signup for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program.

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

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