

May 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

*GovDelivery*

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## Platte County FSA Updates

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**Platte County FSA Office**  
1502 Progress Ct  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
Phone: 307-322-4050  
Fax: 855-415-3444

**County Executive Director:**  
Pam Metz

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Dixie Mount

**Program Technicians:**  
Kayla Mantle  
Mitzi Mudgett  
Heidi Platt

**County Committee:**  
John Watson, Chairperson  
Amy Miller, Vice Chairperson  
Del Tinsley, Member

**Next County Committee Meeting: June 13, 2019 @ 9am**

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this

### From the Desk of Pam Metz, CED

Greetings from Platte County FSA! Hopefully everyone is staying dry with the moisture we have received lately. It is important to remember to report any livestock losses and potential crop damage to the office as soon as possible so it can be documented.

As you begin planting, please remember to let the office know of any changes that have been made to your farming operation. This could be that you added leases, let go of leases, members of an entity have changed, or the bank where you have your payments deposited has changed.

Changes are coming to programs included in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. We will keep you updated as signup periods are announced

#### Upcoming Dates to remember:

- **May 24, 2019** – Final date to purchase 2019 NAP Buy-up coverage
- **May 27, 2019** – Office Closed for federal holiday - Memorial Day
- **May 31, 2019** - Final availability date for Marketing Loans and LDPs for Corn, Sorghum, Safflower, or Sunflower seed.
- **June 15-August 15, 2018** County Committee Election nomination period is open.

meeting should contact Pam Metz at 307-322-4050 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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## USDA Announces March Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers Third 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment

### *Dairy Margin Coverage Program Sign-Up Begins June 17*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this week that the March 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$8.85 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the third payment for dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), 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 signup period for DMC opens June 17, 2019. Dairy producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$9 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January, February and March 2019.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production would receive \$1,543.75 for March.

Sample calculation:

$\$9.50 - \$8.85 \text{ margin} = \$0.65 \text{ difference}$

$\$0.65 \times 95 \text{ percent of production} \times 2,500 \text{ cwt. (30,000 cwt./12)} = \$1,543.75$

DMC premiums are paid annually. The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 95 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$4,275.

Sample calculation:

$3,000,000 \times 95 \text{ percent} = 2,850,000/100 = 28,500 \text{ cwt.} \times 0.150 \text{ premium fee} = \$4,275$

The dairy operation in the example calculation will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$8,170 in DMC payments for January, February and March combined. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level.

All participants are also required to pay an annual \$100 administrative fee in addition to any premium, and payments will be subject to a 6.2 percent reduction to account for federal sequestration.

Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates. For the example above, this would reduce the annual premium by \$1,068.75.

## About DMC

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.

Recently, FSA announced the availability of the [DMC decision support tool](#) as well as [repayment options](#) for producers who were enrolled in MPP-Dairy.

For DMC signup, eligibility and related dairy program information, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$600,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## 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](http://www.farmers.gov). More information on CRP can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp).

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