



United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency



## News and Updates from the Iowa Farm Service Agency

June 30, 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Iowa FSA Newsletter

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### Iowa Farm Service Agency

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**State Executive Director:**  
Amanda De Jong

### Iowa Farm Service Agency Extends Prevented Plant Crop Reporting Deadline in to July 15

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the prevented plant crop reporting deadline for Iowa producers affected by spring flooding and excessive moisture.

Producers in Iowa now have until July 15, 2019, to report acres they intended to plant this spring but could not due to weather conditions. The new deadline coincides with the July 15, 2019, FSA crop acreage reporting deadline that is already in place.

Producers need to report prevented plant acres to retain eligibility for FSA program benefits. Normally, the prevented plant 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

**State Committee:**  
James Stillman, Chair  
Laura Cunningham  
Jerry Mohr  
Ralph Morales  
Patricia Swanson

prevented plant reporting deadline extension to July 15 only applies to FSA and does not change any RMA crop insurance reporting deadline requirements.

However, 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 plant provisions for NAP-covered crops.

To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/ia](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia)

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

For information regarding RMA crop insurance, contact your Approved Insurance Provider. To find your provider, visit [rma.usda.gov/information-tools/agent-locator-page](http://rma.usda.gov/information-tools/agent-locator-page).

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## USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

*Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans), or contact your local FSA office.

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## The Strength of Four Generations

The Vansice Family from Melbourne, Iowa and their four generation farming operation were recently featured on [Farmers.gov](http://Farmers.gov) as part of the #OurFarmers Roadtrip. The #OurFarmers Roadtrip features stories about producers around the country that utilize USDA programs and

services. [Read more about the Vansice Family.](#)

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

### **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.

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

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## **Loan Servicing**

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

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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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## Nominations Open for the 2019 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, 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 and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers 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](http://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## We are Here to Help!

Producers across the country have faced many challenges in farming the past year; from market disruptions due to trade issues, disease, and natural disasters - these events can all impact health and well being. We are here to help! There are many local resources available to Iowa producers to turn to during stressful times.

**[Iowa Concern Hotline](http://www.iaconcern.org)** 1-800-447-1985 Iowa Concern is a program of the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](http://www.iaconcern.org). The program began in 1985 as a toll-free number serving the agricultural community. Today, Iowa Concern serves both urban and rural Iowans. Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week at no charge.

Iowa Concern has access to an attorney for legal education, stress counselors, and information and referral services for a wide variety of topics.

## Access Iowa Concern Resources

- Hotline - toll-free at 1-800-447-1985; language interpretation services available
- Frequently asked questions (currently unavailable for updating) database of legal, finance, crisis and disaster, and personal health issues.
- Live chat service that immediately connects you with a stress counselor where you can "talk" (type) one-on-one in a secure environment
- Email an expert with your [legal](#), [finance](#), [stress](#), or [crisis/disaster](#) questions.

**[Children & Families of Iowa](#)** (515) 288-1981 Offers a complete range of out-patient mental health services to support individuals and families wishing to address mental health issues, improve parenting skills and gain perspective in order to reach their goals. Services are available in the Des Moines area, as well as in Ankeny, Fort Dodge, Osceola, and Ottumwa.

**[CommUnity Crisis Services](#)** 1-855-325-4296; (319) 351-0140 Provides immediate support through crisis intervention, food bank and emergency assistance, and community intervention programs.

**[Depression Understood](#)** Depression contact information for the state of Iowa as well as chat rooms and other resources.

**[Disability Rights IOWA](#)** 1-800-779-2502 Defends and promotes the right of Iowans who have disabilities and mental illness through a program of self advocacy education, information and referral, and both non-legal and legal systems advocacy.

**[Disaster Distress Helpline](#)** 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 Connects Iowans to the nearest crisis center for information, support, and counseling related to stress and anxiety, following a natural or human-caused disaster.

**[Family Caregiver Alliance](#)** 1-800-445-8106 Family Care Navigator helps family caregivers locate public, nonprofit, and private programs and services nearest their loved one—living at home or in a residential facility. Resources include government health and disability programs, legal resources, disease-specific organizations and more.

**[Foundation 2 Crisis Line](#)** 1-800-332-4224; (319) 362-2174 in Cedar Rapids Provides trained, compassionate telephone counselors to assist Iowans dealing with a crisis, including suicide, divorce, serious illness, problems with friends/family, financial stresses, or substance abuse.

**[Iowa Crisis Chat](#)** 1-855-325-4296 (call or text) Free instant-messaging service that offers online emotional support for anyone in need. Available from 9:00 am to 2:00 am central time, seven days a week. Outside of hours of operation, the link will connect you to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 24/7 chat.

**[Iowa COMPASS](#)** 1-800-779-2001 Iowa COMPASS is Iowa's information and referral service for people with disabilities, their families, service providers, and other members of the community. Iowa COMPASS maintains information on over 5,500 local, state, and national agencies and programs. Phone line is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**[Iowa Drug and Alcohol Help Line](#)** 1-855-581-8111 or text 1-855-895-8398 This is your first call in Iowa for substance abuse and gambling information, and referrals to treatment facilities and crisis counseling.

**[Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association](#)** 1-800-277-8145 or (515) 289-4567 Provides resources, referrals, and peer support to foster, adoptive, and kinship families throughout Iowa.

**[Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline](#)** 1-800-284-7821 Trained advocates provide free, confidential counseling and support, as well as referrals to medical and legal advocacy.

**[Iowa Victim Service Call Center](#)** 1-800-770-1650 or text "iowahelp" to 20121 Puts domestic abuse survivors or others affected by domestic violence in immediate contact with a trained advocate who can provide crisis counseling; provides information and education about domestic abuse issues; refers callers to the domestic violence project in their area of the state.

**[Iowa's Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Hotline](#)** 1-800-362-2178 Hotline for reporting suspected child or dependent adult abuse or fraud.

[Speech to Speech](#) Dial 7-1-1 and request Speech-to-Speech Relay services for the hard of hearing, deaf, and those with speech disabilities.

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) 1-800-662-HELP (4357); TTY: 1-800-487-4889 Also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service, this Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential treatment referral and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, and recovery. (English and Spanish).

[TEEN Line](#) 1-800-443-8336 TEEN Line is not a crisis or hotline but is a free, confidential line that provides personal and health-related information and referrals on topics such as: health, eating/weight, relations with parents or friends, violence, AIDS/HIV, alcohol or drug use, sexual relationships, birth control/pregnancy, and stress.

[Veteran's Crisis Line](#) 1-800-273-8255 or text 838255; TTY: 1-800-799-4889 Connects veterans in crisis (and their families and friends) with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential, toll-free hotline, online chat or text.

[Your Life Iowa](#) (855) 581-8111 or text (855) 895-8398 The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers a one-stop hub for Iowans looking for help with suicide prevention, problem gambling and substance abuse. The website integrates information and resources previously found on three separate sites, the IDPH Suicide Prevention web page, 1-800-BETS OFF, and the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center websites. The new system also offers a telephone helpline (all three previous toll free numbers will still be active), mobile-friendly internet-based communication (e.g., online chat), and texting capabilities.

[Youth Law Center](#) 1-800-728-1172 The Youth Law Center provides the Youth Law Hotline 8 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Anyone living in Iowa who is under the age of 18 can call the hotline to get free legal advice and information regarding issues affecting youth rights and responsibilities.

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