

July 2015



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Ohio FSA State News and Updates

Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office

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COC Nomination Deadline Nears

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

The COC nomination period runs from **June 15, 2015 through August 3, 2015**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

For more information, contact your County FSA office or visit the County

Price Support Chief:
Carletha Fasching

Committee Elections website to learn more about the County
Committee Election process at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

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

State Committee:
Bob Boggs, Chairperson
Bob Cole, member
Bruce Long, member
Jim Rex, member
Jim Zumbrink, member

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

USDA Opens Enrollment Period for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Safety-Net Programs

Eligible producers may now formally enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period began June 17, 2015, and will end **Sept. 30, 2015**.

Covered commodities under ARC and PLC include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

For more information please contact [your County FSA office](#).

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

FSA's Conservation Reserve Program Celebrates 30 Years

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1985, CRP is the largest private-lands conservation program in the United States. Thanks to voluntary participation by farmers and landowners, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species.

FSA would like to honor and thank our nation's farmers, landowners, conservation partners and organizations that have supported CRP since its beginning and invite you to visit our commemorative website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30. FSA will post 30 success stories about CRP from now until the end of the year throughout the US and take a cross-country tour to see the nationwide impact of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If you're among the social media users, then tweet to your friends with the hash tag **#CRPis30** and direct them to the site.

Join us in thanking the thousands of farmers and landowners who voluntarily choose to participate in CRP. And join us in celebrating the success of a program that is surpassing all expectations.

Enrollment for 2016 Dairy Margin Protection Program Began July 1

Starting July 1, 2015, dairy farmers can enroll in [Margin Protection Program](#) for coverage in 2016. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating dairy operations when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed

costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

The Margin Protection Program gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment begins July 1 and **ends on Sept. 30, 2015**, for coverage in 2016. Participating farmers will remain in the program through 2018 and pay a \$100 administrative fee each year. Producers also have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year. Margin Protection Program payments are based on an operation's historical production. An operation's historical production will increase by 2.61 percent in 2016 if the operation participated in 2015, providing a stronger safety net.

USDA also has an online resource available to help dairy producers decide which level of coverage will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The enhanced Web tool, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine their unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, mobile phone, or tablet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dairy operations enrolling in the program must meet conservation compliance provisions. Producers participating in the Livestock Gross Margin insurance program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but this new margin program will only begin once their livestock dairy insurance coverage has ended. Producers must also submit form CCC-782 for 2016, confirming their Margin Protection Program coverage level selection, to the FSA office. If electing higher coverage for 2016, dairy producers can either pay the premium in full at the time of enrollment or pay a minimum of 25 percent of the premium by Feb. 1, 2016.

For more information, visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy for more information, or stop by the FSA County office to learn more about the Margin Protection Program.

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

The FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) 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.

All loan requests are subject to an environmental evaluation. Accepting delivery of equipment, 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. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

Contact [your County FSA office](#) for additional details or view the [FSFL fact sheet](#) for more information.

USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

Free basic coverage and discounted premiums available for new and underserved loan

applicants.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers who apply for FSA farm loans of an opportunity to enroll in new disaster loss protections created by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new coverage, available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), is available to FSA loan applicants who grow non-insurable crops, so this is especially important to fruit and vegetable producers and other specialty crop growers.

New and beginning farmers, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost, or higher coverage for a discounted premium.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered crops include “specialty” crops, for instance, vegetables, fruits, hops, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

In addition to free basic coverage, beginning, underserved or limited income producers are eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for the higher levels of coverage that protect up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers also may work with FSA to protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

As a farmer, whether you are just starting out or have many years of experience, there are times when you need to borrow money to start, expand, sustain, or make changes to your business. If you are thinking about applying for a loan, FSA offers a variety of loans, including farm ownership loans, operating loans, emergency, conservation and our most popular loan, the microloan. Microloans offer borrowers simplified lending with less paperwork. Microloans allows beginning, small and mid-sized farmers access up to \$50,000 using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay.

Growers need not apply for an FSA loan, nor be a beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmer, to be eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program assistance. To learn more, visit our NAP or Farm Loan websites at: www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your [County FSA office](#) for additional information.

Dates to Remember

July 15 --- **Final certification date** to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; CRP, corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.

Aug. 3 ---- **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

Aug. 28 --- **Last day** to request a 1-year CRP contract extension. (For eligible contracts expiring this year).

Sept. 4 ---- **Deadline** to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2015.

Sept. 7 ---- Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

Sept. 30 -- **Last day** for dairy producers to make elections for Milk Price Protection Program.

Sept. 30 -- ARC/PLC Enrollment Period Ends.

Oct. 1 ----- **Deadline** to obtain 2016 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write:
USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence
Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800)
877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
