

April 2016



Lincoln County FSA Updates

Lincoln County FSA Office

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Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

ARC/PLC Enrollment Underway

August 1, 2016 is the deadline for producers to complete the 2016 enrollment process for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

Producers will be receiving appointment cards in the mail soon to complete enrollment at the time of crop reporting. Any land changes and/or new landlords should be reported at that time and producers are encouraged to bring copies of new leases.

ARC/PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include but are not limited to barley, oats, and wheat.

USDA Expands Microloans to 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) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be 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, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, 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).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2016 Spring Acreage Reports

The spring crop reporting deadline is July 15, 2016 for all crops that are spring planted. An accurate crop certification is required to comply with many FSA programs. Lincoln County will be sending postcards out with appointments, if the date or time do not work for you, please contact our office to reschedule with a more convenient time.

We will also be available at the Cokeville Town Hall on June 28-30th for appointments.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).