

June 2015



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Prevented Planting Changes for Missouri for 2015

Due to significant rainfall this spring, Missouri FSA requested an extension for producers to file prevented planting with our offices. Missouri FSA has been given authority to accept reports of prevented planting through July 15, 2015.

Typically, prevented planting acres are to be reported to FSA within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop, or be subject to a late-file fee.

For 2015, Missouri county offices are authorized to accept a late-filed prevented planting report. The report will be considered timely filed, regardless of when it is received, if the producer has crop insurance coverage for the crop and timely filed a prevented planted acreage report to his or her insurance company.

Please contact your local county FSA office to report crop acreage.

Acreage Reporting Dates

All producers are encouraged to visit the local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Accurate and timely reporting is necessary for various FSA program eligibility requirements.

The following are acreage reporting dates for Missouri:

July 15	Burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid seed corn, popcorn, rice, soybeans and all other crops and CRP acreage.
November 15	2016 apiculture, pasture, forage and rangeland.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage can be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, report the new acreage no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation will be necessary for the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the final acreage reporting date is July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the crop's acreage reporting date, or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local county FSA office.

Producers can now Sign 2014 and 2015 ARC and PLC Contracts

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that eligible producers may now formally enroll (sign contracts) in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period begins June 17, 2015, and will end Sept. 30, 2015.

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. More than 1.76 million farmers have elected ARC or PLC. Previously, 1.7 million producers had enrolled to receive direct payments (the program replaced with ARC and PLC by the 2014 Farm Bill). This means more farms have elected ARC or PLC than previously enrolled under previously administered programs.

Nationwide, 96 percent of soybean farms, 91 percent of corn farms, and 66 percent of wheat farms elected ARC. 99 percent of long grain rice farms, 99 percent of peanut farms, and 94 percent of medium grain rice farms elected PLC. For data about other crops and state-by-state program election results go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

County Committee Nomination Period

The nomination period for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees began on Monday, June 15, 2015.

It is important for county committees to reflect America's diversity, all eligible farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers are encouraged to get involved in this year's elections.

To serve on a FSA county committee, an eligible person must:

- participate or cooperate in an agency administered program,
- be eligible to vote in a county committee election and
- reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual signs an

FSA-669A (nomination form) agreeing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and to serve if elected.

The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2015 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2015.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 9, 2015. Ballots will be due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2015. Newly elected committee members and alternates will take office on Jan. 1, 2016.

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

Secretary Vilsack Announces 800,000 Acres Dedicated to Conservation Reserve Program for Wildlife Habitat and Wetlands

Secretary Hails Program's 30th Anniversary, Announces General Signup Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced an additional 800,000 acres of highly environmentally sensitive land may be enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) under certain wetland and wildlife initiatives that provide multiple benefits on the same land.

Farm Service Agency will accept new offers to participate in CRP under a general signup to be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016. Eligible existing program participants with contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2015, will be granted an option for one-year extensions.

For 30 years, the Conservation Reserve Program has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The voluntary Conservation Reserve Program allows USDA to contract with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is conserved. Participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

CRP protects water quality and restores significant habitat for wildlife which spurs economic development like hunting and fishing, outdoor recreation and tourism across rural America.

Farmers and ranchers should consider the various CRP continuous sign-up initiatives that may help target specific resource concerns. Financial assistance is offered for many practices including conservation buffers and pollinator habitat plantings, and initiatives such as the highly erodible lands, bottomland hardwood tree and longleaf pine.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the enrollment of grasslands in CRP and information on grasslands enrollment will be available after the regulation is published later this summer.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov or the local FSA county office.

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced producers who apply for FSA farm loans also will be offered the 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, 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, 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.

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

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 www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your [local FSA office](#).

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for June 2015	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	Nomination period begins for County Committee elections.
July 1	MPP-Dairy sign up begins for 2016 coverage.
July 3	Independence Day, observed. FSA offices are closed.
July 15	Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid seed corn, popcorn, rice, soybean and all other crops.
July 15	End of the primary nesting season for Missouri. CRP maintenance can begin on July 16.

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).