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Message from Dean Schamore - State Executive Director for FSA in Kentucky



It's hard to believe summer is almost over. Looking back, it's been a particularly difficult season for a lot of Kentucky farmers and livestock producers impacted by the tragic July 26th floods. Here at FSA, our thoughts remain with those who've lost loved ones and experienced other devastating losses. We've been working with our producers to help them with recovery from crop, land, infrastructure and livestock losses and damages. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your local [USDA Service Center](#) with questions on disaster assistance.

Now, as we transition to fall harvest, know that FSA continues to be there for all Kentucky farmers and ranchers. I appreciate those who've reached out to your local FSA office, allowing us to assist you with the various types of loans, conservation programs, and insurance programs that support the hard work you put into farming. We want you to stay in touch with us to ensure you remain aware of all the available resources FSA has for you. A great way to be reminded of program deadlines and updates is to sign up for email and text alerts by visiting farmers.gov/subscribe. From there you can choose from a wide number of topics including disaster assistance, conservation programs, crop insurance, farm loans, and more.

Farmers who work with a USDA Service Center can:

- Establish their farm by registering for a farm number, which is required for USDA programs and assistance.
- Learn how to meet conservation compliance provisions.
- Verify eligibility for USDA programs.
- Discuss their business and conservation goals.
- Create a conservation plan.
- Fill out and file loan and program applications.

This month, I also want to share an exciting new tool now available for our underserved farmers and ranchers - the new [multi-agency guide for USDA assistance](#). If you are a farmer or rancher and are a minority, woman, veteran, beginning, or limited resource producer, you can use this booklet to learn about assistance and targeted opportunities available to you. This includes programs offered through the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency. The guide is also available in Spanish and other languages on [farmers.gov/translations](#).

We are committed to delivering USDA programs and services to America's farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to COVID-19. We encourage you to [check the status of your local USDA Service Center](#) and make an appointment to discuss your business needs.

Respectfully,

Dean Schamore
State Executive Director for FSA
Kentucky State Office

Beginning Farmer Loan Opportunity

Accessing capital to begin, extend or support an agriculture operation can be especially challenging to new producers. Farm Service Agency's "Beginning Farmer" direct and guaranteed loan programs provide an opportunity for qualified applicants to secure loans from funding set aside for producers who meet the following conditions:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

For more information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) for assistance or visit [fsa.usda.gov](#).

USDA Announces First Three Lenders for Heirs' Property Relending Program

USDA is announcing that Shared Capital Cooperative, Akiptan, Inc. and the Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority (CNEDTA), have been approved or conditionally approved as intermediary lenders through the Heirs' Property Relending Program (HPRP). Once HPRP loans with these lenders close, these lenders will help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs' land ownership and succession issues. Additionally, USDA encourages more intermediary lenders, including cooperatives, credit unions and nonprofit organizations to apply. More information is at farmers.gov/heirs/relending.

Heirs may apply directly to the intermediary lenders for loans to resolve land ownership and succession issues.

USDA Invests \$14.5 Million in Taxpayer Education, Program Outreach Efforts for Farmers and Ranchers

FSA is investing in two outreach and education efforts for farmers and ranchers, including those who are new to agriculture or who have been historically underserved by programs.

First, FSA is announcing \$10 million in the new Taxpayer Education and Asset Protection Initiative. Through this initiative, FSA has partnered with the University of Arkansas and the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee to deliver tax education resources for farmers and ranchers, which includes engagement with agricultural educators, and tax professionals through partnerships with community groups and minority serving institutions across the country.

Second, FSA is investing \$4.5 million in outreach for the Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP), which increases access to land for new farmers and ranchers. FSA will award cooperative agreements to 15 to 20 partner and stakeholder organizations to conduct outreach and technical assistance and promote awareness and understanding among agricultural communities, particularly those who are military veterans, new to farming, or historically underserved.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators



Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. EZ Guarantee Loans use a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved, and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

For more information about the available types of FSA farm loans, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) for assistance or visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires.

CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.

Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.

For more information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) for assistance or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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- See our [2022 Kentucky Guaranteed Lender Newsletter](#)
 - See our [2022 KY FSA Customer Calendar](#)

September 2022 Selected Interest Rates

Farm Loan Programs	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%

Farm Programs Farm Storage Facility Loans	
3 Year	3.125%
5 Year	2.875%
7 Year	2.875%
10 Year	2.750%
12 Year	2.875%
Commodity Loans	4.125%
CCC Borrowing Rate	3.125%

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