|  |
| --- |
| November 2019 NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/2ebfc16).   * [USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment Opens for 2020](#link_1) * [USDA Opens 2020 Enrollment for Dairy Margin Coverage Program; Ends Dec. 13, 2019](#link_2) * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#link_3) * [Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#link_4) * [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](#link_5) * [Youth Loans](#link_6)  Maine State FSA Newsletter |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Maine Farm Service Agency 967 Illinois Ave, Suite 2  Bangor, ME  04401  207-990-9140  [www.fsa.usda.gov/me](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fme%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441940762%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=eGqKJTAip1z3bAV1lW5QMyVVe0LahWEMEESZrwsrqSg%3D&reserved=0)  **State Executive Director:**  David R. Lavway, SED  **State Committee:**  Sue McCrum  Heath Miller  Nancy Ricker  Dave Tuttle  Fred Flewelling  To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/me](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fme%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441950714%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2BWwEPPW8UHLiZvtXltmL1P%2BDH29s0LU3v7vmiBIwbAA%3D&reserved=0) | USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment Opens for 2020 Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2020 crop year. Meanwhile, producers who enrolled farms for the 2018 crop year have started receiving more than $1.5 billion for covered commodities for which payments were triggered under such programs.  ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.  Signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020, while signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.  ARC and PLC have options for the farm operator who is actively farming the land as well as the owner of the land. Farm owners also have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields beginning with crop year 2020. If the farm owner and producer visit the FSA county office together, FSA can also update yield information during that visit.  Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.  **2018 Crop Year ARC and PLC Payments**  FSA began processing payments last week for 2018 ARC-County (ARC-CO) and PLC on covered commodities that met payment triggers on enrolled farms in the 2018 crop year. In addition to the $1.5 billion now in process, FSA anticipates it will issue another $1 billion in November once USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service publishes additional commodity prices for the 2018 crop.  Producers who had 2018 covered commodities enrolled in ARC-CO can visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Farc-plc%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441950714%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=VdgD8U7d%2BjgsFZaBtIK7jR%2BTwklgsp9sicUig7kJDOg%3D&reserved=0) for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity.  For farms and covered commodities enrolled in 2018 PLC, the following crops met payment triggers:  barley, canola, corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, peanuts, and wheat.  Oats and soybeans did not meet 2018 PLC payment triggers.  2018 PLC payment rates for the following covered commodities have not been determined: crambe, flaxseed, large and small chickpeas, long and medium grain rice, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, seed cotton, sesame seed, sunflower seed and temperate Japonica rice.  **More Information**  For more information on ARC and PLC including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441960674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ut2IQLAFACnr8c01sJ7V6WS%2F3zpPbTqBaEX3QgOocwo%3D&reserved=0).   USDA Opens 2020 Enrollment for Dairy Margin Coverage Program; Ends Dec. 13, 2019 Dairy producers can now enroll in the [Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2019%2Fdairy_margin_coverage_program-june_2019_fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441960674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=mAs4pU5hpEWZJmtLe5yXRPaN8bbsJe0J1i%2FxBqv5KzU%3D&reserved=0) for calendar year 2020. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened signup for the program that helps producers manage economic risk brought on by milk price and feed cost disparities.  The DMC program offers reasonably priced 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. The deadline to enroll in DMC for 2020 is Dec. 13, 2019.  Dairy farmers earned more than $300 million dollars from the program in 2019 so far. Producers are encouraged to take advantage of this very important risk management tool for 2020.  All producers who want 2020 coverage, even those who took advantage of the 25 percent premium discount by locking in the coverage level for five years of margin protection coverage are required to visit the office during this signup period to pay the annual administrative fee.  Dairy producers should definitely consider coverage for 2020 as even the slightest drop in the margin can trigger payments.  **More Information**  The 2018 Farm Bill created DMC, improving on the previous safety net for dairy producers. DMC is one of many programs that FSA and other USDA agencies are implementing to support America’s farmers.  For more information on enrolling in DMC and taking advantage of an online dairy decision tool that assists producers in selecting coverage for 2020, visit the [DMC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdairy-margin-coverage-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441970633%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Qie7JlY00ZD2ceFZuqMig1tzbZbTpLHrgyoGNGbjxn4%3D&reserved=0).  For additional questions and assistance, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.farmers.gov%2Fservice-center-locator%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441980588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=mOT%2Bg8iDVAyCtKi93veAbxNl0yhuO%2BsvK7WvkE%2FW718%3D&reserved=0). | |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans FSA’s Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.  The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.  Loans up to $50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between $50,000 and $100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding $100,000 require additional security.  Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.  To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fpricesupport%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441980588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=plVDy50117QwrRsV2l1qJHKJs8A6ryz2JdKeKhsAqgs%3D&reserved=0)  or contact your local FSA county office.  To find your local FSA county office, visit [http://offices.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Foffices.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441990549%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=HU88zhLF9REUAK6wPGrQ2ZfWwaGehaOJZeaOBmf7u88%3D&reserved=0).   Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security Farm Service Agency would like to remind farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their loans, of key items for maintaining loan collateral. It is required that borrowers must obtain prior consent, or approval, by either FSA, for direct loans, or by a guaranteed lender, for any transaction affecting real estate security. Examples of these transactions include, but are not limited to:   * Leases of any kind; * Easements of any kind; * Subordinations; * Partial releases, and * Sales   Failure to meet or follow the requirements set forth in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.  It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFarm-Loan-Programs%2Fpdfs%2Floan-servicing%2Ffarm_loan_compass_9-22-17.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca9b23a6830824006f8de08d95b60fff0%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641294441990549%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=jUmD7Kp6fXcCtwy6cAlyt0E%2BbcyEsUjuqjpwMV3pHic%3D&reserved=0). Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early The Farm Loan teams in Maine are already working on operating loans for Spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early to be   timely processed.  The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.  FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose.  The traditional **farm operating** **and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.  **Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to $50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at the FSA county offices can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide applications.  Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.  Other types of loans available include:  **Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.  **Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan**.**  Please call your local county office with questions about any of the loans available through FSA.   Youth Loans The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5,000.  **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**   * Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien * Be 10 years to 20 years of age * Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements * Be unable to get a loan from other sources * Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above * Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.<span style="mso-spacerun: yes"> </span>The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.   Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.    Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Mary Anne Coffin at 207-990-9140 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.  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). |