

December 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Upcoming Acreage Reporting Dates and Enrollment Deadlines

Don't forget! December 15, 2019, is the final date to report fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Since the 15th falls on a weekend, reports will be accepted through Monday, December 16, 2019. The deadline for enrollment in Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program for 2020 coverage has been extended to Friday, December 20, 2019. The deadline to sign up for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) has also been extended to December 20, 2019. More information is included in the following article.

As a reminder, our offices will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 in observance of the Christmas Day Holiday, and Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday.

The Missouri Farm Service Agency wishes you and your family Happy Holidays! We look forward to serving you in 2020!

USDA Extends Deadlines for Dairy Margin Coverage Program and Market Facilitation Program to Dec. 20, 2019

Due to the prolonged and extensive impacts of weather events this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended the deadline to December 20 for producers to enroll in the [Dairy Margin](#)

Conservation Covey
Headquarters newsletter.

[Coverage](#) (DMC) program for the 2020 calendar year. The deadline had been December 13. USDA announced is also continuing to accept applications for the [Market Facilitation Program](#) through December 20.

2019 has challenged the country's ag sector – prevented or late planting followed by a delayed harvest has been further complicated by wet and cold weather. Because many producers are still in the field, time to conduct business at the local USDA office is at a premium. USDA hopes this deadline extension will allow producers the opportunity to participate in these important programs.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), the 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 Market Facilitation Program is part of a relief strategy to support American agricultural producers while the Administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers compete globally. MFP payments are aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations.

For more information, visit the [DMC webpage](#), the [MFP webpage](#) or your local [USDA service center](#). To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

USDA Announces Opening Signup for Conservation Reserve Program on December 9, 2019

USDA is opening signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres. This means farmers and ranchers have a chance to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife. This in turn spurs hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic development across rural America.

CRP Enrollment Options

General Signup

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

Continuous Signup

While some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CREP will continue to target high-priority local, state or regional conservation concerns.

Grasslands Signups

CRP Grasslands signup helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands signup will be offered each year following general signup.

Pilot Programs

Later in 2020, (FSA will roll out pilot programs within CRP: CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region. More information on these programs will be announced in the new year.

Land Transition

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

Previously Expired Land

Land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in September 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

CRP Rates and Payments

FSA recently posted updated soil rental rates for CRP. County average rates are posted on the [CRP Statistics webpage](#). Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous signup and 85 percent for general signup. The rental rates will be assessed annually. Under

continuous signup, producers also receive incentives, including a signup incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

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 potentially enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

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 in October 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 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, large chickpeas, sunflower seed, rapeseed, flaxseed, long grain rice, short grain rice, seed cotton 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: 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](#).

Missouri Producers Encouraged to Participate in Upcoming Meetings Regarding Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and Other 2018 Farm Bill Programs

The 2018 Farm Bill, enacted December 20, 2018, provides support, certainty, and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest managers by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs, and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. While all of the programs administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) were reauthorized, most have modifications, including the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

To assist producers in learning more about these and other program changes, specialists from Missouri FSA and University of Missouri Extension will conduct a series of regional meetings, with the following dates announced:

- December 18, 2019: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Crossroads Christian Church, 1816 N Missouri Street, Macon, MO 63552 (Register Online: <https://extension2.missouri.edu/events/farm-bill-seminar>)
- January 9, 2020: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Thompson Center, State Fair Community College, 3201 W 16th St., Sedalia, MO 65301

Additional meetings are scheduled for the Northwest, Southwest and Southeast regions of the state in the coming weeks. FSA staff and program specialists will be available to answer questions regarding the new programs. All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office with questions specific to their farm or ranch.

Person with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings should contact Jessica Claypole at 573-876-0935 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 at least three days prior to the event.

Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA

office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The farm loan staff in Missouri is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can 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 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. Local farm loan staff can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan 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 contact your local FSA office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for December 2019

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	2.500%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	1.875%
Commodity Loans (1996-Present)	2.625%

Dates to Remember

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December 20, 2019	Final date to enroll in Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program for 2020 coverage.
December 20, 2019	Final date to sign up for Market Facilitation Program (MFP) for 2019.
December 25, 2019	Christmas Day Holiday. USDA Service Center Closed.
December 31, 2019	NAP application closing date for potatoes.
January 1, 2020	New Year's Day Holiday. USDA Service Center Closed.
January 1, 2020	Newly-elected County Committee members take office.
January 15, 2020	Final date to report apples, grapes and peaches.

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).