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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

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Visit the
New Jersey FSA
website for more
information at
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Nominations Period Ends for the 2019 County Committee Elections August 1st

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers.

Deadlines

See all our regular program deadlines here:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Jersey/state-events/index>

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2019. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Information for elections in your county office are available on the New Jersey FSA Website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj> and clicking on "Local Election Information" or by clicking [here](#).

USDA Now Making Payments for New Dairy Margin Coverage Program

Income-over-feed margin for May triggers fifth payment for 2019

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened enrollment for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program on June 17 and has started issuing payments to producers who purchased coverage. Producers can enroll through Sept. 20, 2019.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, DMC replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). The program offers 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. To date, nearly 10,000 operations have signed up for the new program, and FSA has begun paying approximately \$100 million to producers for January through May.

May Margin Payment

DMC provides coverage retroactive to January 1, 2019, with applicable payments following soon after enrollment.

The May 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$9.00 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the fifth payment for eligible dairy producers who purchase the \$9.50 level of coverage under DMC. Payments for January, February, March and April also were triggered.

With the 50 percent hay blend, FSA's revised April 2019 income over feed cost margin is \$8.82 per cwt. The revised margins for January, February and March are, respectively, \$7.71, \$7.91 and \$8.66.

Coverage Levels and MPP Reimbursements

Dairy producers can choose coverage levels from \$4 up to \$9.50 at the time of signup. More than 98 percent of the producers currently enrolled have elected \$9.50 coverage on up to 95 percent of their production history.

More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today's updates are part of meeting that goal.

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

New Earlier Sign up for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

New Jersey's State Conservationist Carrie Lindig with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging agricultural producers and forest land managers to contact their local NRCS office to plan conservation activities for their operations for next year. Applications for assistance through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), EQIP Conservation Activity Plans and EQIP Initiatives submitted to local NRCS offices by August 30, 2019, will be considered for Fiscal Year 2020 funding. "In past years, we accepted applications through October. This year, we are closing the application period in August to get contracts signed and planning underway so there is ample time for implementation in the summer of 2020."

NRCS soil conservationists are available to help New Jersey private land managers assess the natural resources on their property and suggest conservation practices that could be planned and implemented with NRCS assistance. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities. Initiatives in New Jersey include the Golden Winged Warbler Initiative in north Jersey and the National Water Quality Initiative in south Jersey. EQIP can help producers address issues such as animal waste management, efficient irrigation, erosion control, improving soil health, wildlife habitat improvement, and more by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Lindig said, "Last year NRCS provided over \$5.4 million in EQIP financial assistance to New Jersey producers. As we anticipate similar funding allocations for FY2020, we are hoping that more eligible New Jersey landowners and managers will take advantage of the opportunities available through NRCS's voluntary conservation programs."

NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers address resource concerns through conservation programs authorized by the Farm Bill. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round. Applications are processed when funding becomes available. Interested producers should visit [their local NRCS service center](#) and the NJ NRCS website (www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. Additionally, this requirement is applicable to other crops as determined by the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs. Please contact your local office if you have questions about specific crops.

This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Leading Miss Macy

It all started with a heifer named Macy and a high schooler with a dream. In October 2015, Payton Farmer received a [youth loan](#) from USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) to purchase Macy, a breeding heifer, and begin building her herd.

FSA offers loans to young people to start and operate income-producing projects in connection to their participation in 4-H, FFA, a tribal youth group, or similar agricultural youth organization.

Payton learned about the youth loan program from some customers of her family's cattle operation.

"I think the loan process is a great idea for anyone who wants to help themselves build credit, learn the loan process, business skills and responsibility," Payton said. "It can help you grow your herd and hopefully, in the long run, help you make more money."

Payton learned about the youth loan program from some customers of her family's cattle operation.

During the 2015-2016 cattle show season, Payton enjoyed much success exhibiting Macy. She knew her work would one day pay big returns. This year, Payton plans to begin flushing embryos from Macy to maximize her impact on improving the breed's genetics. Once a cow is bred through artificial insemination, embryos are flushed out and can be transferred to a donor cow.

With Payton taking the lead, Macy was ranked the fourth-overall individual at both the Decatur County Battle and the Bartholomew County Open show, champion Hereford numerous times, and class winner at the Hereford Junior Nationals.

Payton and Macy won many showmanship classes at the various open shows they participated in culminating with the achievement of Payton winning Senior Showmanship at the Indiana State Fair. Showmanship recognizes an exhibitor's knowledge and care of their animals.

Macy is now the mother to a heifer named Isabella, a new lineage in Payton's growing cattle herd.

Round Two

Payton repaid her first youth loan in the summer of 2018. In the fall, she acquired her second youth loan and purchased a Maine-Anjou heifer, named Coco Chanel. She and Coco Chanel hit the road to several jackpot shows as well as the Junior Nationals.

Coco Chanel is already garnering a lot of interest and Payton hopes to have as much or more success with this heifer as she did with Macy.

"The biggest lesson I learned from the youth loan program is good repayment practices and becoming familiar with the loan process," Payton added.

What the Future Holds

Payton will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall with plans to become a dental hygienist.

She said the knowledge and responsibility she gained through owning her own cattle herd will help her succeed in her future endeavors.

Payton is hopeful she can work with FSA in the future to purchase her first farm.

"It's taught me how to run a small business at a young age," she concluded. "My ultimate goal is to continue to raise and show cattle, to continue to grow my herd, and focus on the quality of my animals. I honestly can't imagine not raising cattle."

More Information

USDA offers a variety of risk management, disaster assistance, loan, and conservation programs to help agricultural producers in the United States weather ups and downs in the market and recover from natural disasters as well as invest in improvements to their operations. [Learn about additional programs.](#)

For more information about USDA programs and services, [contact your local USDA service center.](#)

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

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).