

February 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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West Virginia FSA Newsletter

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Russell Linger III
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USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Program Deadline Extensions

USDA's Farm Service Agency extended deadlines on many of its programs because of the government shutdown and the emergency nature of many of the programs. Below are updated deadlines:

*** For details on all program deadlines and extensions, view FSA National Notice CM-807

Farm Programs

- Market Facilitation Program
- Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019
- Marketing Assistance Loans
- If loan matured in December 2018, settlement date extended to Feb. 14, 2019
- Peanut loans or Loan Deficiency Payments - loan availability date now Feb. 28, 2019
- Emergency Conservation Program
- Performance reporting due Feb. 14, 2019
- Livestock Forage Disaster
- 2018 application for payment due Feb. 28, 2019

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

- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program
- Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019
- Livestock Indemnity Program
- Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- Submitting 2019 application for coverage due Feb. 14, 2019
- Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable) due Feb. 14, 2019
- Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres due Feb. 14, 2019
- Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses due Feb. 14, 2019
- Tree Assistance Program
- Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019

Acreage Reporting For inquiries related to these programs or any not listed above, contact your local FSA Office.

Get Access to the Farmers.gov Dashboard

The vision of farmers.gov is to provide farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners with online self-service applications, educational materials, engagement opportunities, and business tools.

Many of these self-service features are available through the secure [farmers.gov portal](#), where you can log in to your dashboard to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

If you work with USDA, we encourage you to get an USDA eAuthentication account, providing you access to the farmers.gov dashboard and enabling you to better manage your USDA business online.

Sign Up Today

We encourage you to register for a Level 2 eAuthentication account:

1. Contact your [local service center](#) to ensure your correct email address is on file.
2. Create an account at www.eauth.usda.gov. When creating your account, be sure to request Level 2 access and use the email address on file.
3. Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA service center.

4. Now that you're now enrolled, contact your local USDA service center to have your account linked with your USDA customer record.
5. You're ready to login!

Currently, only customers doing business as individuals can access their records using a USDA eAuthentication account. Access for customers doing business as an entity (such as an LLC or Trust) or on behalf of another individual will be available in the future.

Available Dashboard Features

USDA is building farmers.gov *for farmers, by farmers*, based on feedback from you and our field employees who serve you. Once you're logged in to the secure farmers.gov portal, you can view a dashboard personalized with your customer profile and complete the following activities:

- View and track your application for the [2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program](#); and
- Apply for the [Market Facilitation Program](#).

You can also link directly to our existing business applications, such as Farm Service Agency's [FSAfarm+](#) and Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Conservation Client Gateway](#). As we grow, these and other USDA business applications will be integrated into the dashboard.

Other Upcoming Features

In the next year, USDA plans to add new features to the dashboard, enabling you to:

- view information on current and previous farm loans;
- evaluate loan programs to find the best fit for your business goals;
- submit loan documents to your service center; and
- view your farm records, including your farm and tract number and maps.

Need Help?

For help setting up your account, call our help desk at 1-800-457-3642. For other questions, we encourage you to reach out your [local USDA service center](#).

To read the full blog, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/media/blog/2018/12/19/get-access-your-farmersgov-dashboard>.

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 \$5000.

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. 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.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- 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. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.
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Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA to Host 2018 Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session

USDA is hosting a listening session for initial input on the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA is seeking public input on the changes to existing programs implemented by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Risk Management Agency. Each agency will take into account stakeholder input when making discretionary decisions on program implementation.

The listening session will be held Feb. 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Building located at 14th Street and Independence Ave. S.W. in Washington, D.C.

The listening session is open to the public. Participants must register at farmers.gov/farmbill by February 22, 2019, to attend the listening session and are encouraged to provide written comments prior to the listening session. For those orally presenting comments at the listening session, written comments are encouraged to be submitted to regulations.gov by February 22, 2019. Additional written comments will be accepted through March 1, 2019. Comments received will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

For more information on the listening session visit farmers.gov/farmbill.

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).