

November 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

A Message from the SED

I drove through western Wisconsin the other day and saw several dozen combines moving through the fields. After several weeks of wet and challenging weather, it is amazing what a stretch of blue skies and sunshine can do for your attitude.

Your local FSA office is ready to assist you with the Market Facilitation Program. MFP assists farmers impacted by trade disruptions caused by retaliatory tariffs. It's a quick and easy sign-up process. Read more about MFP below.

Best wishes for a continued safe and productive harvest!

Sandy Chalmers

Dates to Remember

November 5, 2018: Ballots are mailed to voters for the [County Committee \(COC\) Election](#)

November 15, 2018: [Acreage reporting](#) deadline for 2019 crops including fall-seeded crops, perennial forage, fall mint, pasture, rangeland, and forage

November 20, 2018: [Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) application deadline for 2019 crops including apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, currants, grapes, honey, hops, maple sap, pears, and strawberries

[DATES TO REMEMBER \(continued\)](#)

December 3, 2018: Final date to submit Notice of Loss for [2017 AND 2018 ELAP losses](#)

December 3, 2018: Final date to submit Notice of Loss for [2018 LIP losses](#) (or within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent)

December 3, 2018: Final date to return [COC election](#) ballots to the USDA Service Center

January 2, 2019: [Acreage reporting](#) deadline for 2019 Honeybee colonies (hives)

January 15, 2019: [Acreage reporting](#) deadline for 2019 crops including apples, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, currants, grapes, hops, maple sap, pears, and strawberries

January 15, 2019: Final date to sign and submit part D of the CCC-910 application for the [Market Facilitation Program \(MFP\)](#)

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Emergency Conservation Program Assistance Available in Five Wisconsin Counties

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

The following counties are eligible for ECP assistance: **Dane, Juneau, Lacrosse, Monroe and Vernon**

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations

Producers who suffered a loss from a natural disaster should contact their [local FSA Office](#) for ECP deadlines.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM AVAILABLE (continued)

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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Producers Reminded to Maintain Stored Grain and Perform Quality Checks

FSA reminds producers to perform quality checks of stored grain that is currently under a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan.

Producers with marketing assistance loans are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan. The CCC is not responsible for any quality loss.

In addition, producers are reminded that county offices conduct spot-checks regularly to verify that the quality and quantity of the loan collateral is being maintained by the borrower.

Please contact your local FSA office if you have questions regarding quality concerns or checks of stored grain. To find your local office visit www.farmers.gov.

AskFSA

Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ask FSA at askfsa.custhelp.com.

AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your FSA questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is for ALL customers, including underserved farmers and ranchers who wish to be enrolled in FSA loans, farm, and conservation programs.

Through AskFSA you can:

- Access our knowledge base 24/7
- Receive answers to your questions faster
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from an FSA expert
- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operation are updated
- Customize your account settings and view responses at any time

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Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP) Deadline Nears

The Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP) provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid from Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. The application deadline for the 2018 program year is Oct. 31, 2018.

Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

Producers and handlers may submit OCCSP applications to FSA county offices or they may apply through participating State Agencies, which will be listed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index> as their agreements to administer the program are finalized.

The FSA OCCSP application form is available at [USDA's eForms site](#), by selecting "Browse Forms" and entering "OCCSP" in the "Title or Keywords" field on the search page.

To learn more about organic certification cost-share, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact a local FSA office by visiting <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Market Facilitation Program Details

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer MFP to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, wheat, shelled almond, and fresh sweet cherry producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted.

The sign-up period for MFP runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. MFP provides payments to producers of eligible commodities who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

For a list of initial MFP payments rates, view the [MFP Fact Sheet](#).

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, shelled almonds, and fresh sweet cherries capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

Expanded Hog Timeline

USDA has expanded the timeline for producers with whom the Aug. 1, 2018, date does not accurately represent the number of head of live hogs they own. Producers may now choose any date between July 15 to Aug. 15, 2018 that correctly reflects their actual operation.

MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM (continued)

MFP applications are available online at www.farmers.gov/mfp. Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing. To locate or contact your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

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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.

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Current Interest Rates

Loan Interest Rates

*Interest rates are announced at the beginning of each month.

[Click here to find notification of current FSFL and commodity loan interest rates.](#)

[Click here to view current Farm Loan interest rates.](#)

Farm Loans- OCTOBER 2018

Farm Operating- Direct: 3.750%

Farm Operating- Microloan: 3.750%

Farm Ownership- Direct: 4.125%

Farm Ownership- Microloan: 4.125%

Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing: 2.500%

Farm Ownership- Down Payment: 1.50%

Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss: 3.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)-OCTOBER 2018

3-year FSFL: 2.750%

5-year FSFL: 2.750%

7-year FSFL: 2.875%

10-year FSFL: 2.875%

12-year FSFL: 3.000%

9-Month Commodity Loans OCTOBER 2018

Marketing Assistance Loan: 3.500%

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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).