

January 2016



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Please [contact](#) your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Check out our [State Events](#) page for upcoming agricultural events in the state.

CRP Sign Up Continues through Feb. 26

A general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is now through Feb. 26. Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion. CRP improves water quality and develops wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

Producers can submit offers for the 49th CRP sign-up at the local FSA county office. Some eligibility requirements include:

- Producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period;
- Land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2008 to 2013, and be physically and legally capable of being planted;

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during the general enrollment period. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2016, may submit offers. **Soil rental rates have changed, so contact your local office to see if re-enrollment is right for you.**

Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water

quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

USDA Offers Flood Impacted Missouri Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

Farm Service Agency Stands Ready to Assist Agricultural Producers Slammed by Recent Heavy Rains

Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers across the state of federal farm program benefits that may be available to help eligible producers recover from recent heavy rains and flooding.

FSA offers disaster assistance to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs include:

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados, lightening, extreme heat, and extreme cold. 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.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disaster.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes

- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.
- **HayNet** - is an Internet-based Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze. www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet.

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ or contact your local FSA Office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Actively Engaged Rules

USDA finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

Since 1987, the broad definition of “actively engaged” resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

Sales Closing Date for Noninsurable Crops

USDA crop risk protection options are available through Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

The following sales closing dates apply for Missouri for 2016 coverage:

February 28 - Rice

March 15 -Most spring-seeded crops, pecans, forage and pasture.

Crops not covered by Federal Crop insurance may be eligible for NAP. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. ***Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection.***

To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local county office.

2016 Mid MO Soil Health Seminar - Boonville, MO

The 2016 Mid MO Soil Health Seminar will be held Tuesday, March 1, and Wednesday, March 2, 2016, in Boonville, Mo. The first day will focus on improving soil health on row crop operations and day two will focus on improving soil health on livestock operations. Registration will end with 300 seats are filled for each day, or on February 15, whichever comes first. Register at www.midmosoilhealth.com or by calling (660) 882-5647 or by emailing david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov.

Persons requiring accommodations to attend this meeting should contact Randon Leathers at (660) 882-5647 by February 15.

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 underserved groups.

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.

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons Forbidden In Federal Facilities

USDA Service Centers and Farm Service Agency Offices are Off Limits for Firearms

This is an important reminder to all customers and patrons of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and USDA Service Centers statewide that **firearms are forbidden (even with a permit/license) in Federal Buildings**. A Federal Building by definition is any building owned, leased or rented by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.

The items that are prohibited in Federal facilities include any item prohibited by any applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal law and/or ordinance, as well as firearms, dangerous weapons, explosives, or other destructive devices (including their individual parts or components) designed, redesigned, used, intended for use, or readily converted to cause injury, death, or property damage. Possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities as outline above is a crime punishable by fines and imprisonment.

For a complete list of items prohibited in Federal facilities, please view and/or download the document titled, [Items Prohibited from Federal Facilities: An Interagency Security Committee Standard](#). **The lists of prohibited items outlined in this document apply to all facility occupants, contractors, and the visiting public.**

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notification, please contact your local Farm Service Agency Office—<http://offices.usda.gov>.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for January 2016	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 15	Final date to report apples, grapes and peaches.
Jan. 18	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. FSA offices are closed.
Jan. 30	Final date to sign up for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for death losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2015.
Jan. 31	Final availability date for 2015 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for wool and unshorn pelts.

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).
