

June 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Nominations Open for the 2018 County Committee Elections](#)
- [USDA Resumes Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment](#)
- [USDA Reopens Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters](#)
- [FSA Releases Signup Information for Tree Assistance Program](#)
- [Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres](#)
- [2018 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Last Chance to Complete the 2017 Census of Agriculture](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Ohio FSA State Newsletter

Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office

200 North High St.
Room 540
Columbus, OH, 43215
Phone: 614-255-2441
FAX: 855-832-5100

State Executive Director:
Leonard Hubert

Administrative Officer:
Vacant

Conservation Chief:
Brandi Koehler

Farm Loan Chief:
David Drake

Nominations Open for the 2018 County Committee Elections

The USDA FSA encourages all farmers and FSA program participants to take part in their 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. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers. Underserved producers are beginning,

Price Support Chief:
Vacant

**Production Adjustment,
Compliance and Risk
Management Chief:**
Matt Kleski

State Committee Members:
Trish Levering, Chair
Ronnie Clifton
Daryl Knipp
Joe Steiner

Visit the Ohio FSA website for
additional information at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

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

[Current FSA Farm
Loan Interest Rates](#)

[Current Commodity Credit
Corporation \(CCC\) Interest
Rates](#)

women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved. All nomination forms for the 2018 election must be postmarked or received in their FSA County office by Aug. 1, 2018.

For more information on FSA's County Committee Elections and appointments, visit the County Committee Elections website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or speak with your [FSA County office](#) for more information.

USDA Resumes Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment

One-Year Extension Available to Holders of Many Expiring Contracts through Continuous Signup

As part of a 33-year effort to protect sensitive lands and improve water quality and wildlife habitat on private lands, the USDA will resume accepting applications for the voluntary [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP). Eligible farmers and private landowners can signup at their [County FSA office](#).

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the CRP continuous signup (excluding applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and CRP grasslands). This pause allowed USDA to review available acres and avoid exceeding the 24 million-acre CRP cap set by the 2014 Farm Bill. New limited practice availability with a signup deadline of Aug. 17, 2018 helps ensure that landowners with the most sensitive acreage will enroll in the program and avoid unintended competition with new and beginning farmers seeking leases. CRP enrollment currently is about 22.7 million acres.

Soil Rental Rates for the Conservation Reserve Program Updated for 2018

FSA has released updated 2018 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Rental Rates. These rental rates are soil-specific estimates of dryland rental rates that FSA uses to set maximum payment rates for CRP offer and contracts. Soil Rental Rates were last updated in 2017. Virtually all Soil Rental Rates have changes for 2018. For soil-specific rental rate information, please contact your [FSA County office](#). For more information on the CRP please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRP.

USDA Resumes Accepting CRP Continuous Signup Offers and 1 Year Contract Extensions through Aug. 17, 2018

For this year's signup, limited priority practices are available for continuous enrollment. They include grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices](#).

FSA will use updated soil rental rates to make annual rental payments, reflecting current values. It will not offer incentive payments as part of the new signup.

USDA will not open a general signup this year, however, a one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants with expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter with more information. The one year extension signup is authorized through Aug. 17, 2018 for contracts expiring September 30, 2018.

CRP Grasslands

Additionally, FSA established new [ranking criteria](#) for [CRP Grasslands](#). To guarantee all CRP grasslands offers are treated equally, applicants who previously applied will be asked to reapply using the new ranking criteria. Producers with pending applications will receive a letter providing the options.

About CRP

In return for enrolling land in CRP, USDA, through FSA on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years. CRP pays producers who remove sensitive lands from production and plant certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat.

The new changes to CRP do not impact the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a related program offered by CCC and state partners.

Producers wanting to apply for the CRP continuous signup or CRP grasslands should contact their [FSA County office](#). More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

USDA Reopens Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters

Signup Started June 4 for Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish

On June 4, the USDA started accepting disaster assistance program applications from agricultural producers who suffered livestock, honeybees, farm-raised fish and other losses due to natural disasters. FSA has reopened the application period for two disaster assistance programs in response to statutory changes made by Congress earlier this year.

FSA will accept new applications for losses for calendar year 2017 or 2018 filed under the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) or [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP). Producers who already submitted applications and received decisions on their applications for these years do not need to file again, but they can reapply if they have additional losses or their application was disapproved because it was filed late.

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which made several changes to these two disaster programs, including:

- Removing ELAP's \$20 million fiscal year funding cap, enabling FSA to pay producers' 2017 applications in full and their 2018 applications as soon as they are approved.
- Removing the per-person and legal entity annual program payment limitation of \$125,000 for LIP for 2017 and future years. (The income limitation applies as it did before, meaning producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$900,000 are not eligible.)

- Changing LIP to allow producers to receive a payment for injured livestock that are sold for a reduced price due to an eligible event. Previously, the program only covered financial loss for livestock death above normal mortality.

Producers interested in LIP or ELAP should contact their [FSA County office](#). To apply, producers will need to provide verifiable and reliable production records and other information about their operation.

FSA Releases Signup Information for Tree Assistance Program

FSA recently released signup information for the [Tree Assistance Program](#), a nationwide program that provides orchardists and nursery tree growers with cost share assistance to replant eligible trees, bushes, and vines following a natural disaster.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 prescribed several changes to the program, including the removal of the \$125,000 per person and legal entity payment limitation. The [notice](#) outlined when producers should file applications for any recent losses, given the changes to the program.

Eligible producers should file for TAP assistance by the later of these two dates:

- 90 days of the disaster or when damages from the disaster are noticed; or
- 60 days after the regulation is published on the Federal Register later this summer.

The following producers can file applications:

- Producers who did not previously apply for TAP for 2017 or 2018 losses; and
- Producers who had applied and received an adverse determination that their 2017 or 2018 TAP application was filed late.

Additionally, producers with 2017 losses can also file an application or revise an original application because of the changes made through the Act.

For more information on TAP, producers should contact their [FSA County office](#).

Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA FSA reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. 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).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Contact your [FSA County Office](#) to schedule an appointment to file a Notice of Loss.

2018 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their FSA County office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Ohio:

July 15, 2018 --- Report all your Burley Tobacco, Cabbage (Planted 3/19/18-5/31/18), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other crops.

Aug. 15, 2018 --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/18-7/20/18).

Sept. 30, 2018 --- Report Aquaculture.

Nov. 15, 2018 --- Report Perennial Forage Crops.

Dec. 15, 2018 --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, producers are encouraged to contact their [FSA County office](#).

Last Chance to Complete the 2017 Census of Agriculture

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is wrapping up data collection for the 2017 Census of Agriculture. To stay on track for data release in February 2019, the deadline for submitting the paper questionnaire is June 15, 2018. Farmers and landowners who have not responded by June 15, 2018 still have until the end of July to complete the Census online through the secure website found on the cover of their Census form. Phone follow-up and personal interviews will also continue through July.

"The Census of Agriculture provides the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation," said USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. "These data are used to make important local, state, and national decisions that will have a very real impact on farmers, ag operations, and rural communities. I encourage producers to respond online or to send in their paper form today."

The questionnaire needs to be completed by everyone who received a form - including landowners who lease land to producers, those involved in conservation programs, even those who may have received the Census and do not farm. Every response matters.

"Our mission at NASS is to provide data in service to U.S. agriculture," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We extended the original Census deadline because many producers weren't counted – and if they aren't represented in these critical data, they risk being underserved in farm programs, disaster assistance, agricultural research, education, local policies, and business; it is imperative that we hear from everyone."

Federal law, Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113, requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and to only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture or to respond online, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. Improved in 2017, the online form is faster and more convenient than ever. For questions about or assistance with filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

Dates to Remember

June 15 -- County Committee Nomination Period begins.

July 4 ---- Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.

July 15 ---- Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.

Aug. 1 ---- **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.

Aug. 1 ---- **Last day** to enroll in ARC/PLC coverage for 2018.

Aug. 15 --- 2018 CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) Enrollment application deadline.

Aug. 17 --- 2018 CRP Continuous Enrollment signup deadline.

Aug. 31 --- Deadline to obtain 2019 NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turf grass Sod and Watercress.

Sept. 3 ---- Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.

Sept. 4 ---- Deadline to obtain 2019 NAP coverage for Nursery and Ornamental Nursery.

Oct. 1 ---- Deadline to obtain 2019 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

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).