

July 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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- [COC Nomination Deadline Nears](#)
- [2018 ARC/PLC Enrollment Period Ends Aug. 1](#)
- [USDA Resumes Accepting CRP Continuous Signup Offers and 1 Year Contract Extensions through Aug. 17, 2018](#)
- [Farm Reconstitutions](#)
- [Maintaining Stored Grain Quality](#)
- [USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Ohio FSA State Newsletter

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COC Nomination Deadline Nears

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

The COC nomination period runs from **June 15, 2018 through August 1, 2018**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

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](#)

For more information, contact your [FSA County office](#) or visit the
County Committee Elections website to learn more about the
County Committee Election process at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

2018 ARC/PLC Enrollment Period Ends Aug. 1

Farmers with base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or
Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program can visit FSA
county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2018 crop year.
The enrollment period will end on Aug. 1, 2018. Since shares and
ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must
enroll by signing a contract each program year.

The producers on a farm that are not enrolled for the 2018
enrollment period will not be eligible for financial assistance from
the ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 crop should crop prices or
farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks
established by the program. Producers who made their elections in
previous years must still enroll during the 2018 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill
and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a
substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities.
Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small
chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard
seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans,
sunflower seed and wheat. For more details regarding these
programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their [FSA
County office](#).

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.

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.

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With summer here, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact the FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Dates to Remember

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. 17 --- 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).