

October 2018



## Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

# NEWSLETTER

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## Ohio State FSA Newsletter

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### 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:**  
Traci Garza

**Conservation Chief:**  
Brandi Koehler

**Farm Loan Chief:**  
David Drake

**Price Support Chief:**  
Vacant

### USDA Market Facilitation Program

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](http://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

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

second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

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

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

MFP payments are capped per person or legal entity as follows:

- A combined \$125,000 for eligible crop commodities
- A combined \$125,000 for dairy production and hogs
- A combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherries and almonds

Visit the Ohio FSA website for additional information at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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.

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

### **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.

[Current FSA Farm  
Loan Interest Rates](#)

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

MFP applications are available online at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Applications can be completed at your [FSA County office](#) or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing.

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## **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by Dec. 3, 2018
- An application for payment by **Dec. 3, 2018**. *\*The original deadline date was Nov. 1, but was recently changed to Dec. 3, 2018.*

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- [ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](#)
- [ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](#)

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit your [County FSA office](#).

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## Perennial Forage Acreage Reporting Deadline is November 15

Ohio producers are reminded that the acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage crop is **Nov. 15, 2018**. Producers must still visit both FSA and RMA locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their County FSA office to file an accurate perennial forage crop certification report by the Nov. 15th deadline. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your [County FSA office](#).

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## Reporting Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed and the acreage reporting date is **Dec. 15, 2018**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please call to schedule an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

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## Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,429,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,729,000.

For detailed information, contact your [FSA County office](#) to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

# Low Interest Commodity Loans Provide Cash Flow Now

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest and provides interim financing at harvest time to help meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities until favorable market conditions emerge.

With the current market conditions producers who have access to on-farm storage or warehouse storage should consider a Marketing Assistance Loan (warehouses must be able to issue acceptable warehouse receipts. Contact the county office for additional information on warehouse loans).

## Producer Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the producer must:

- Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements;
- Submit an acreage report for all cropland on all farms;
- Have and retain beneficial interest until the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity;
- Meet adjusted gross income limitations. If a Marketing Loan Gain (MLG) is earned and prices fall below the loan rate, then the MLG is subject to AGI provisions.

## Commodity Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the commodity must:

- Be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC;
- Meet specific CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

## Beneficial Interest

A producer retains beneficial interest in the commodity if he/she maintains control of the commodity and title to the commodity. Some marketing decisions may cause a producer to lose control and/or title to the grain so review specific concerns with the county office.

## Final Availability Dates

May 31, 2019 is the final availability date for a corn or soybean loan.

## Loan Rates

To determine the commodity loan rates for your county, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Ohio/ldp-rates/index> and select the county from the drop down box to view the loan rates.

## Interest

The interest rate charged for commodity loans is set at one percentage point above CCC's cost of borrowing from the U.S. Treasury at the time the loan is made. After a loan is made, the rate is fixed except the interest rate for loans outstanding on January 1, 2019 is adjusted to reflect CCC's cost of borrowing on January 1st, plus one percent. **The interest rate for the month of October is 3.50%.**

## Loan Settlement

MAL's mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the MAL is approved. A producer may settle an outstanding MAL:

- Before maturity period by repaying the MAL or;
- Upon maturity by forfeiting the commodity to CCC.

For loan eligible commodities a producer may repay an MAL any time during the loan period at the lesser of the:

- Loan rate plus interest or;
- Alternative loan repayment rate determined by CCC. Prices would have to drop more for this option to be viable and can be discussed further by calling or visiting the [FSA County office](#).

### **Required Signatures**

In cases where individual producers are applying for MAL's, spousal signatures are now required on loan documents to protect the interest of all parties in the loan making process. In the past producers could sign on behalf of spouses but this option is no longer available. Spouses have the option of waiving interest in the crop to avoid signing loan documents. FSA has a document that can be completed to waive interest.

### **Lienholder Waiver**

If you have a lien on the crop FSA has a lien waiver document that lienholders can sign so that loan proceeds can be issued directly to the applicant or issued jointly. Applicants are encouraged to visit with crop lienholders before applying for a MAL.

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## **USDA Offers Secure, Convenient Online Business Options**

### ***Farmers, Producers and Foresters Encouraged to Sign-In/Sign-Up***

Farmers, producers and agricultural producers in Ohio have new online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Through USDA's new streamlined process producers can now register, track and manage their applications for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and 2017 Wildfires Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) on the secure and convenient website at: <https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in>.

MFP and 2017 WHIP are administered by FSA and are currently available at: <https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in>. To apply and manage their applications online, producers first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Enrolling is a two-step process. For producers who do not already have an account can register for an account at [www.eauth.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.usda.gov). After creating the account, customers receive a confirmation email with instructions for identity verification. Identity verification can be completed online or by presenting a government issued photo ID in person at a USDA service center.

In addition to the programs available through the farmers.gov portal, other programs offered by FSA can be managed at the [Online Services page](#) with the same eAuthentication credentials.

Individual producers have many options available for conducting business online with USDA agencies including FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Online tools such as the NRCS [Conservation Client Gateway](#) offer customers added flexibility and a secure web portal to track payments, report completed practices,

request assistance, and sign documents. Level 2 eAuthentication access is not yet available for entities, but it is available for individuals.

To learn more about conducting business with USDA online and to locate the nearest USDA service center, visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).

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## Dates to Remember

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

**Oct. 8** ---- Columbus Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

**Nov. 5** --- County committee ballots mailed to voters.

**Nov. 12** --- Veterans Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

**Nov. 15** --- The final acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage crops.

**Nov. 20** --- **Last day to apply** for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, hops and maple syrup.

**Nov. 22** --- Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

**Dec. 3** ---- **Last day** to return voted Ballots in county committee election.

**Dec. 15** --- Deadline to report the 2019 Fall Seeded Crops for fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.

**Dec. 25** ---- Christmas Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

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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).