

October 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Rhode Island FSA Newsletter

Rhode Island Farm Service Agency

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Phone: 401-828-8232

www.fsa.usda.gov/ri

State Executive Director: W. Michael Sullivan , PhD

State Committee: Doreen Pezza, Judith Carvalho, Kevin

USDA Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2018

Farmers and ranchers with generic base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program still have time to enroll for the 2018 crop year. Producers with generic base acres have until **Dec. 7, 2018**, to allocate generic base acres, update yields, make a program election for seed cotton base acres and enroll farms that formerly contained generic base acres.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

Breene, Ellen Puccetti, David Frerichs

State Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month subject to change.

Rhode Island County Office: 401-828-3120 Option 2.

County Executive Director: Sheryl Michener

County Committee: Kim Coulter, Vincent Confreda, Victor Hoogendoorn, Donald Bafoni Jr, Joseph Silveira

County Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month subject to change.

Farm Loan Team: 401-828-3120 Option 3.

Farm Loan Manager: Roxanne Boisse

Farm Loan Officer Trainee: Gene Piskator

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, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, wheat and upland cotton. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/>.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms or contact the farm loan team at 401-828-3120 option 3.

USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Rhode Island Producers

Rhode Island USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Sheryl Michener announced that farmers in Rhode Island now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text **RIKent** to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from Rhode Island. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Please contact your local FSA office at 401-828-3120 option 2 if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the new text message option.

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. 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.

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.

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 Nov. 1, 2018
- An application for payment by **Nov. 1, 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

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

Important Dates to Remember

November 5th Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters

Providence County Committee Election Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters.

November 8th, Hay Producer Meeting

10:00 am -12:00 pm. Attention Hay Producers! You are invited to come join FSA to learn about new risk management practices for your hay crop including income protection. New crop insurance options currently available to you, a refresher from USDA and others on best management techniques while earning a pesticide credit is available! This meeting will be held in the USDA conference Room at 60 Quaker Lane Warwick RI. RSVP the Rhode Island County Office at 401-828-3120.

November 8th, Fruit Growers Meeting

2:00 – 4:00 pm Attention Fruit Crop Producers! You are invited to come join FSA to learn about new risk management practices for your fruit including income protection. New crop insurance options currently available to you, a refresher from USDA and others on best management techniques while earning a pesticide credit is available! This meeting will be held in the USDA conference Room at 60 Quaker Lane Warwick RI. RSVP the Rhode Island County Office at 401-828-3120.

November 20th Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Signup Deadline for Perennial Crops

November 20th is the final date producers growing perennial crops can insure their crops under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). For more information, please contact the Rhode Island FSA County Office at 401-828-3120 option 2.

December 1st, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Signup Deadline for Specialty Crops

December 1st is the final date producers producing specialty crops such as honey and maple sap can insure their crop under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). For more information, please contact the Rhode Island County Office at 401-828-3120 option 2.

December 3rd, Last day to return voted ballots

All voted ballots for Providence County Committee Elections shall be returned to the Rhode Island County FSA Office located at 60 Quaker Lane Suite 49 Warwick, RI 02886.

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).