

June 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

- [A Message from the SED](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Enrollment Period for 2017 Safety Net Coverage Continues through August 1](#)
- [Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres](#)
- [Guaranteed Loans Available Through Conventional Lenders](#)
- [USDA Makes it Easier to Transfer Land to the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers](#)
- [USDA RMA Approves Modifications to Margin Protection Plan of Insurance](#)

## Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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### Wisconsin Farm Service Agency **A Message from the SED**

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#### Acting State Executive

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Russell Raeder

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#### Farm Loan Chief:

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#### Farm Program

**Chief/Executive Officer:**  
Russell Raeder

We have entered a very busy season in our county offices. Some important deadlines are approaching. Don't forget to contact your local office to report your planted acres if you participate in any FSA programs. The final date to report spring-planted crops is **July 17, 2017** (because July 15th falls on a weekend). If you have crops covered by FCIC policies, ensure you have reported to your crop insurance agent as well.

In addition to the final reporting date, the final date to enroll in the 2017 Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) Program is **August 1, 2017**.

It is also election time around our Farm Service Agency offices. From June 15th through August 1st, we are taking nominations to serve on local County Committees. If you are interested in serving, or know someone who would be, please contact your local office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) to learn more.

To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

The Wisconsin Farm Service Agency will host a booth at [Farm Technology Days](#) July 11-13 in Kewaunee County. Please stop by the FSA booth in the Conservation Tent to check out a demo of [FSAfarm+](#) or just say hello.

Have a happy and safe 4th of July,

Russ

[www.fsa.usda.gov/wi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wi)

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## Dates to Remember

### JUNE 15-AUGUST 1, 2017

**County Committee Election** nomination period for Local Administrative Area up for election. Individuals can nominate themselves or others

### JULY 3-DECEMBER 15, 2017

Signup period for **2018 Dairy Market Protection Program (MPP)**

### JULY 4, 2017

USDA **Service Centers closed** in observance of Independence Day

### JULY 17, 2017

**Acreage reporting deadline** for spring-seeded crops; including forage seeding, crops intended for cover, green manure, or left standing, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres

### AUGUST 1, 2017

2017 Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (**ARC/PLC**) **enrollment deadline** for 2017 contracts

### SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

**Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline** for 2018 Value Loss Crops including ginseng, turf grass sod, aquaculture, mushrooms, and Christmas Trees

**September 30, 2017** (October 2, 2017 due to Sept. 30 falling on a non-workday)

**NAP application deadline** for 2018 crops including alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, clover, grasses, mixed forages, rhubarb, rye, triticale, vetch, wheat, and other winter-seeded small grains and perennial forage

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadlines and Signature Requirements

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline for the 2017 Crop Year.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your crop insurance agent and FSA will be working with the Acreage and Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This initiative is a result of the 2014 Farm Bill and standardizes data requirements for acreage reporting between FSA and Crop Insurance providers. **At this time, you MUST sign all acreage reports (FSA-578's) at a local Farm Service Agency office to meet the FSA program requirements.** You may also have to sign forms with your local Crop Insurance Agent. Please contact your Farm Service Agency office AND your Crop Insurance agent to ensure you have completed all required forms to maintain eligibility for all programs.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Wisconsin.

**July 17, 2017:** All spring seeded crops; including dry edible beans, dark and light red kidney beans, forage seeding, and all CRP acreage.

**August 15, 2017:** Processing snap beans, Cabbage

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.

## **2017 Acreage Reporting Deadlines and Signature Requirements, Continued**

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

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, please contact your local FSA office. To find your local office, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## **Enrollment Period for 2017 Safety Net Coverage Continues through August 1**

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit their local FSA office to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. **The enrollment period will continue until August 1, 2017.**

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

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 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 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 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 and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://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 <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## **Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Contact your local FSA office for a list of final planting dates by crop. To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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.

## ***Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres, Continued***

Additionally, producers with failed acres can also use form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres. Keep in mind, reports must be filed before disposition of the crop.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## **Guaranteed Loans Available Through Conventional Lenders**

In addition to loans obtained directly from FSA, applicants can also obtain Guaranteed Loans through a regular lender. Under a Guaranteed Loan, a conventional lender makes and services the loan, and in most cases, FSA guarantees it against a loss up to a maximum of 90% of loan amount. In certain circumstances, a 95% guarantee is available. FSA is responsible for approving all loan guarantees and for providing oversight of the lenders loan making and servicing activities.

Guaranteed loans can be made for the same purposes as Direct Operating Loans (for personal property or annual operating needs), and a Direct Farm Ownership Loan (for real estate purposes), including the refinancing of debts, unlike the Direct Farm Ownership Loans, which must be used only to buy or improve real estate. The maximum indebtedness for a Guaranteed Loan(s) currently cannot exceed \$1,399,000.

Guaranteed loans can provide several advantages to an applicant, including the possibility of having the interest rates locked in for a longer term than a lender would otherwise be able to without a guarantee, or allow the customer to obtain a Revolving Line of Credit Loan that covers advances for up to 5 years.

Contact your local lender to see if this program can be of benefit to you and your farm operation. If they are not familiar with the FSA guaranteed loan programs, have them contact the Farm Loan Team that is located in their area. To find local FSA contacts, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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## **USDA Makes it Easier to Transfer Land to the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering an early termination opportunity for certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, making it easier to transfer property to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, including family members. The land that is eligible for the early termination is among the least environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP.

Normally if a landowner terminates a CRP contract early, they are required to repay all previous payments plus interest. The new policy waives this repayment if the land is transferred to a beginning farmer or rancher through a sale or lease with an option to buy. With CRP enrollment close to the Congressionally-mandated cap of 24 million acres, the early termination will also allow USDA to enroll other land with higher conservation value elsewhere.

Acres terminated early from CRP under these land tenure provisions will be eligible for priority enrollment consideration into the CRP Grasslands, if eligible; or the Conservation Stewardship Program or Environmental Quality Incentives Program, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## ***USDA Makes it Easier to Transfer Land to the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers, Continued***

According to the Tenure, Ownership and Transition of Agricultural Land survey, conducted by USDA in 2014, U.S. farmland owners expect to transfer 93 million acres to new ownership during 2015-2019. This represents 10 percent of all farmland across the nation. Details on the early termination opportunity are available at local USDA service centers. For more information about CRP and to find out if your acreage is eligible for early contract termination, contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or go online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## **USDA RMA Approves Modifications to Margin Protection Plan of Insurance**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced greater crop insurance options for farmers against unexpected decreases in their operating margin. Offered through the federal crop insurance program, margin protection insurance for corn, wheat, rice and soybeans will be available in more states and have updates designed to better clarify the real input costs covered beginning in 2018.

The RMA is expanding margin protection for corn and soybeans to Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The RMA also reevaluated how the liabilities and deductibles were identified and has increased the maximum coverage level available to 95 percent. In addition, the program was updated to add a harvest price option for all margin protection crops, which will allow farmers to get the greater of the projected price or the harvest price to further result in a more effective safety net for farmers.

Margin protection insurance is a privately-developed product and first became available in 2016 to provide coverage based on an expected margin, which is the expected area revenue minus the expected area operating costs, for each applicable crop, type and practice. Margin protection is area-based coverage and may not necessarily reflect individual experience. The margin protection plan can be purchased by itself, or in conjunction with a Yield Protection or Revenue Protection policy.

A producer may choose coverage from 70 percent to 95 percent of their expected margin. A higher level of coverage will have a higher premium rate. The last day to purchase a margin protection policy for corn, soybeans, and spring wheat is September 30, 2017. The last day to purchase margin protection for rice is the same as the sales closing date for the underlying rice insurance policy, which varies by county. Maps of eligible counties and other resources can be found on the [margin protection webpage](#). \*Please note, the map has not been updated to reflect the updated policy but the maps will be updated on a regular basis.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#).

Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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).

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