

April 2017



Farm Service Agency

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NEWSLETTER



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency **Crop Reporting Time is Around the Corner**

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To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

Click [here](#) for the Missouri Department of Conservation Covey Headquarters newsletter.

Don't forget to stop by your local FSA office to report your crops. The following crop certification dates are quickly approaching in Missouri:

- **May 15, 2017:** Spring oats and potatoes;
- **July 15, 2017:** CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other crops.

Please note: November 15, 2016, was the final reporting date for 2017 pasture, rangeland, forage and apiculture. December 15, 2016, was the final reporting date for fall barley, fall wheat & all other fall-seeded small grains.

If the crop hasn't been planted by the reporting date listed above, it must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed. If additional acreage is acquired after the final reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after the purchase or acquisition of a new lease.

Some county offices may request that producers schedule an appointment for acreage reporting. Please check with your local county office to see if an appointment is requested, or for any questions regarding crop reporting.

The Missouri FSA staff hopes you have a safe planting season!

Final Planting Dates

All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on the [final planting date](#) for specific crops. These dates vary by crop, planting period and county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific planting deadlines or visit the [RMA website](#). The timely planting of a crop, by the final planting date, may prevent loss of program benefits.

CRP Maintenance

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are responsible for ensuring adequate, approved vegetative and practice cover is maintained to control erosion throughout the life of the contract after the practice has been established. Participants must also control undesirable vegetation (includes trees or brush growing on grass practices), weeds (including noxious weeds), insects and rodents that may pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

All CRP maintenance activities, such as mowing, burning, disking and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting or brood rearing season for wildlife, which for Missouri is May 1 through July 15. However, spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting or brood rearing season if, left untreated, the weeds, insects or undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover. In this instance, spot treatment is limited to the affected areas in the field and requires County Committee approval prior to beginning the spot treatment. The County Committee will consult with NRCS to determine if such activities are needed to maintain the approved cover.

Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control, or for cosmetic purposes, is prohibited at all times.

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan programs require that applicants have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information found on a customer's credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score.

- Make sure to pay bills on time. Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
- Pay down existing debt.
- Keep your credit card balances low.
- Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts.

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Baled Hay and the Imported Fire Ant

If you buy, sell, or produce baled hay, check out USDA's new factsheet titled "Questions and Answers: Moving Baled Hay From Areas Under Quarantine for Imported Fire Ant." This publication contains useful information for farmers, ranchers, hay growers, and suppliers as they respond to recent wildfires in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Its goal is to help support commerce and the movement of hay, while guarding against the further spread of the imported fire ant. Click [here](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/baled-hay) to open the factsheet. The web address is <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/baled-hay>.

Census of Agriculture Countdown Begins for America's Farmers and Ranchers

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to strongly represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. The 2012 Census of Agriculture revealed that over three million farmers operated more than two million farms, spanning over 914 million acres. This was a four percent decrease in the number of U.S. farms from the previous census in 2007. However, agriculture sales, income, and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This telling information and thousands of other agriculture statistics are a direct result of responses to the Census of Agriculture.

Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov and clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for April 2017	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.500
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.00
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50
Emergency Loans	3.875
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.625
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.00
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.250
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.50
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.50
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.00

Dates to Remember	
May 1	NAP application closing date for ornamental nursery (for subsequent year).
May 15	Final date to report spring oats & potatoes.
May 31	Final availability date for 2016 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for feed grains, upland cotton, soybeans & minor oilseeds.
July 15	Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other crops. NAP crops must be reported by the final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.
Aug. 1	Enrollment for 2017 ARC and PLC programs ends.

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).