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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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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.

Deadline to Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

Farmers and ranchers have until Aug. 1 to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and/or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2017 crop year. These programs trigger financial protections for participating agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues.

Producers have already elected ARC or PLC, but to receive program benefits they must enroll for the 2017 crop year by signing a contract before the Aug. 1 deadline. Please contact your local FSA office to schedule an appointment if you have not yet enrolled.

Covered commodities under the programs 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.

For more program information, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Eligibility for Nominations for the 2017 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

All nomination forms for the 2017 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2017. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

CRP Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants can utilize routine grazing and managed harvesting as outlined in their conservation plan. Managed harvesting and routine grazing are authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover.

CRP contracts in Missouri may utilize routine grazing and managed harvesting for hay no more frequently than once out of every three years.

Under normal conditions, managed haying and routine grazing can be requested at the local FSA office by the landowner or producer on the CRP contract. The same acreage cannot be hayed and grazed.

CRP acres must be considered fully established before haying or grazing can be authorized. In addition, haying or grazing CRP acres is not authorized during the primary nesting season. For Missouri, the primary nesting season is May 1 through July 15. Producer must request approval before haying or grazing the acreage.

For routine grazing, the authorization expires Sept. 30 and all livestock must be **removed by Sept. 30**. CRP participants must report the number of acres grazed to FSA by no later than Oct. 10.

Before grazing eligible acreage, CRP participants must request approval and obtain a modified conservation plan to include routine grazing requirements. CRP participants are not permitted to graze any acreage hayed or grazed under managed or emergency provisions. Participants must report the number of acres routine grazed by Oct. 10, 2017.

For haying, the authorization expires Sept. 30 and all hay bales must be **completely removed** from CRP contract acres by no later than Oct. 30. CRP participants must report the number of acres hayed to FSA by no later than Oct. 10. Haying is limited to one cutting.

Routine grazing and managed harvesting will result in an annual rental payment reduction of no less than 25 percent based on the number of acres actually grazed or harvested. Producers who qualify

as a beginning farmer or rancher, who are grazing CRP acres, will not be assessed a payment reduction. This waiver does not apply to acres that are hayed.

All hayed and grazed acres are subject to FSA spot-check at any time during or after the authorization period.

Producers must notify the local FSA office prior to any haying or grazing activities on CRP acres.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful for borrowers who use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines>. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three month period, the preauthorized debt agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact your local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for July 2017	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.875
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.875
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500
Emergency Loans	3.750
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.500
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	1.750
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.000
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.250
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.875
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.125

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Enrollment for 2017 ARC and PLC programs end.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee nomination forms at the local FSA office.
Aug. 1	Final date to request a reconstitution – combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farm operation.
Sept. 1	Enrollment begins for Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) for 2018 coverage.
Sept. 1	NAP application closing date for greens, aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng root, turf grass sod, mushrooms & floriculture.

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).