

January 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

*GovDelivery*

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## Missouri FSA Newsletter

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### Missouri Farm Service Agency

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

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

### Margin Insurance Premium Assistance Program Announced for Dairy Producers

The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) has announced the sign-up for the Margin Insurance Premium Assistance Program, created as part of the Missouri Dairy Revitalization Act. This program authorizes reimbursement of up to 70 percent of premiums paid by dairy producers under the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Margin Protection Program (MPP). Administrative fees are exempt from reimbursement and catastrophic-level coverage is not included.

The application period is now open and will close on February 28, 2018. Dairy producers applying for reimbursement can allow FSA to provide documentation to MASBDA for proof of full payment of MPP premiums, from 2015 to 2017. Full program information and application forms are available through the Missouri Department of Agriculture [website](#). Producers are also encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to obtain proof of premium payments.

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### Deadlines Approaching for FSA Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

Livestock producers are reminded that deadlines for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) are quickly approaching.

The deadline to apply for LFP benefits for 2017 grazing losses is Jan. 30, 2018. Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and submit the required supporting documentation by the

deadline. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

Producers with eligible livestock losses must submit a LIP application for payment by March 31, 2018. LIP provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For 2017, eligible LIP losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

Please contact to your local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for LFP or LIP benefits.

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## Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

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## Signup for 2018 ARC/PLC Program Now Underway

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs can now sign contracts and enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2018. 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 2018 enrollment period, the producers on that farm 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. Call your local FSA office to set up a time to enroll your farm.

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## USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Online Hay and Grazing Acres Locator Tool

FSA's **Hay Net** website [www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet) is the "go to" online resource for agricultural producers to list information concerning the need for hay and grazing acres or the availability of hay and grazing acres.

If, due to extenuating circumstances, producers are in need of hay and/or grazing acres to support livestock, please use **Hay Net** to post an advertisement seeking these resources. Likewise, landowners who have hay and/or grazing acres available for livestock producers should post a Hay Net advertisement as well.

A few things to remember when using the **Hay Net** website:

- There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users who just want to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.
- Hay and grazing acre ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date and remove ads you no longer need or want advertised on **Hay Net**. Please, no corporate advertisements on this site.

**Hay Net** is brought to you by FSA as a public service. The sole purpose of this online resource is to provide a site for the exchange of information. FSA does not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise make representations of any kind regarding any user of this site and FSA is not responsible for defining the terms of grazing agreements or lease contracts.

For more information about **Hay Net** and other FSA services and programs, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: [offices.usda.gov](http://offices.usda.gov).

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## FSA Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and

the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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## Upcoming Mid-Missouri Grazing Conference & Soil Health Seminar

The Mid-Missouri Grazing Conference will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the St. Martins Knights of Columbus, 537 Route T in Jefferson City, MO. This workshop is directed to livestock producers of cattle and small ruminants.

Topics include herbicide options for weed control, rotational grazing, fescue and herd management, small ruminants 101, and grazing livestock on native grasses. Between speakers, there will be breaks where attendees can speak with a number of vendors and speakers. A keynote address will be given by Ashley McCarty, Executive Director of Missouri Farmers Care, on Agriculture Advocacy.

Early registration is \$30 by January 19, or \$40 at the door, and includes a lunch. Refreshments will be served during the breaks. For more information please contact Ed Gilmore or Peggy Lemmons at 573-893-5188, extension 3, or visit <http://extension.missouri.edu/grazingconf/home.aspx>.

The 2018 Mid-Missouri Soil Health Seminar will be held Tuesday, March 6, through Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at the Isle of Capri, 100 Isle of Capri Blvd., in Boonville, MO. This workshop is dedicated to soil health as it relates to cover crops, grazing and nutrient management.

Admission is \$15 per day and pre-registration is required. Registration will end when 300 seats are filled for each day or on February 16, whichever comes first. Register at [www.midmosoilhealth.com](http://www.midmosoilhealth.com), call 660-882-5647 ext. 3, or email [david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:david.glaskey@swcd.mo.gov). A block of rooms will be held at the Isle of Capri Hotel until February 16 or when full, and can be reserved by calling 660-882-1200.

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## Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for January 2018	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.625%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 15	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. USDA Service Center Closed.
Jan. 15	Final date to report apples, grapes & peaches. (Since the 15th is a Federal holiday, applications will be accepted through Tuesday, Jan. 16th)
Jan. 31	Final availability date for 2017 Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs for wool & unshorn pelts.
Feb. 19	George Washington's Birthday. USDA Service Center Closed.
Feb. 28	NAP application closing date for rice.