

August 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

---

## Delaware FSA Newsletter

- [Elections for the 2017 County Committee](#)
- [2016 PLC Payment Rates and ARC Actual Prices for Wheat, Barley and Oats](#)
- [CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs](#)
- [Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\) Losses](#)
- [Whole Farm Revenue Protection Workshop](#)
- [Maintaining Good Credit History](#)

---

### Delaware Farm Service Agency

1221 College Park Dr.

Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-678-4250

Fax: 855-389-2246

Web: [Delaware FSA](#)

#### State Executive Director:

Robin Talley, acting

#### DE State Committee:

Dale Scuse

### Elections for the 2017 County Committee

Elections for USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) County Committees are underway.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA.

The 2017 election in **Kent County** will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA 2 covering the towns of Camden, Felton, Harrington & Farmington

Current COC Member = Frank Hrupsa

The 2017 election in **New Castle County** will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA 1 covering the towns of Newark, Bear & Wilmington

Current COC Member = Linda Brown

## Important Dates

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will be **closed on Monday, September 4th** in observance of Labor Day.

Please contact your local [FSA Office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county.

The 2017 election in **Sussex County** will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA 1 covering the towns of Milford, Lincoln, Bridgeville, Greenwood, Lewes, Milton & Harbeson

Current COC Member = Matthew Smith

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 6, 2017. The last day to return completed ballots to your USDA service center is Dec. 4, 2017.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

---

## 2016 PLC Payment Rates and ARC Actual Prices for Wheat, Barley and Oats

The Agricultural Act of 2014 provides for payments for covered commodities through the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program when the market year average price is below the reference price. Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program payments are triggered when the actual revenue is below the guarantee established for the program.

The Marketing Year Average (MYA) price for wheat, barley and oats was announced June 29, resulting in a PLC payment rate of \$1.61 per bushel for 2016 wheat and \$0.34 per bushel for 2016 oats. There is no PLC payment on 2016 barley.

For Agriculture Loss Coverage – County (ARC-CO), actual crop revenue is calculated by multiplying the actual average yield for your county times the higher of the MYA price or the national loan rate. For 2016, the following prices have been set – wheat at \$3.89 per bushel; barley at \$4.96 per bushel; and oats at \$2.06 per bushel. 2016 county yields will not be available until this fall.

All 2016 ARC and PLC payments cannot be made until after Oct. 1, 2017, or the announcement of the final 2016 MYA price for the applicable covered commodity.

---

## CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs

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, 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 Delaware is **April 15 through August 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.

---

## **Report Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2017 crops. A notice of loss must be **filed within 15 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.**

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available.

---

## **Whole Farm Revenue Protection Workshop**

**Save the Date:** August 22, 2017

Carvel Center - Georgetown, DE

9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

**Speakers:**

DDA Secretary of Agriculture – Michael Scuse

DDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture – Kenny Bounds

Ben Thiel – Risk Management Agency, Spokane, WA

Dr. Jarrod Miller – University of Maryland, Extension Ag Educator

Don Clifton – Farmers First Services, Inc.

**Nutrient management credits will be available to attendees.**

Register at [decrophelp@gmail.com](mailto:decrophelp@gmail.com), or 302-831-2538, or 302-242-8806.

---

## 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

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).

---