

May 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Mississippi State FSA Newsletter

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### Mississippi State Farm Service Agency

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

#### State Executive Director:

Robert A. (Bobby) Carson

#### State Committee:

Bobby Moody-Chairman

Scott Flowers

Rita Seward

### Farmers.gov Feature Enables USDA Customers to Manage Farm Loans Online

Do you have loans through USDA? If so, you can login to view loan information, history and payments through farmers.gov, USDA's self-service website available to agricultural producers.

Using a desktop, tablet, or phone, the "My Financial Information" feature enables you to view:

- loan information;
- interest payments for the current calendar year (including year-to-date interest paid for the past five years);
- loan advance and payment history;
- paid-in-full and restructured loans; and

Henry Reed  
Gale Martin

- account alerts giving borrowers important notifications regarding their loans.

**Next County Committee Meeting: TBA**

Currently, access is only available for customers doing business as individuals. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, can't access the portal at this time, but access is being planned.

To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/ms](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ms)

Users are recommended to use Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge.

### **USDA Reminds Mississippi Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in Mississippi are currently open to phone and virtual appointments only but can still work with producers on timely filing crop acreage reports. FSA staff can provide assistance over the phone, by email and through virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in State

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Fall-Seeded Small Grains          | December 15 |
| • Blueberries, Grapes, Peaches      | January 15  |
| • Pecans                            | March 15    |
| • All other crops, Perennial Forage | July 15     |

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county. Contact your local FSA office for a list of acreage reporting deadlines by crop.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline. FSA staff is still able to assist producers in completing acreage reports, including providing maps.

FSA county offices in Mississippi will provide maps to producers through mail or email with instructions for completing the maps. After planting is complete, producers should return completed maps and the acreage reporting sheet by mail or email by July 15th.

FSA offices are using Microsoft Teams software to virtually meet with producers to review maps and documents for certification. Producers who want to schedule a virtual appointment can download the Microsoft Teams app on their smart phones and call the FSA office for an appointment. You can also use Microsoft Teams from your personal computer without downloading software.

After completed maps and all acreage reporting information is received, FSA will make software updates and mail or, email producers the completed *Report of Acreage* form (FSA-578) to sign. Producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through mail or email by July 15.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the 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 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.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. 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 USDA's Risk Management Agency.

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, please contact your local FSA office. To locate your local FSA office visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

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### **FSA Adds Farm Loan Flexibilities**

Farm loans are critical for annual operating and family living expenses, emergency needs and cash flow, especially in tough times. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is providing additional flexibilities to provide producers with credit options. We encourage direct loan applicants and borrowers to contact their county office to discuss these programs and any current, and future, temporary changes to farm loan deadlines and the loan servicing options available. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. For a full list of flexibilities, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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### **USDA Offers Individuals Options to Complete Business Online**

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, including Farm Service Agency's Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), producer farm data, such as Common Land Unit data through FSAfarm+, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Conservation Client Gateway](#) .

Producers doing business as an individual with these agencies first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy!

1. Contact your local service center to confirm you have a USDA customer record with a primary email address. Use our [Service Center Locator](#) to find your local office.
2. Navigate to the [eAuth Account Registration page](#).
3. Select "Customer" on the registration page.
4. Enter your primary email address, which should match what USDA has on your customer record. You will receive an email from eAuth asking you to confirm your email address. Click the "Continue Registration" link in this email to continue the registration process.  
*Note: When you log in, your User ID will be your email address.*
5. Next, enter your name and set a password.
6. Finally, you will need to verify your identity. You will be taken to a page where you will need to provide information such as your date of birth and residential address, and then can verify your identity online. If you are unable to verify your identity online, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Visit [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in) to learn more. To locate a Service Center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov). For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

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### **USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup**

Farmers and ranchers may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup. The signup runs through May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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**Selected Interest Rates for May**

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.750%
Farm Operating- Direct	1.750%
Farm Operating - Microloan	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership - Microloan	2.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan - Amount of Actual Loss	2.75%

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**Reasonable Accommodation:**

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339

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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).