

February 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Rhode Island FSA Newsletter

Rhode Island Farm Service Agency

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www.fsa.usda.gov/ri

State Executive Director: W. Michael Sullivan PhD

State Committee: Doreen Pezza, Judith Carvalho, Ellen Puccetti, Kevin Breene, David Frerich

Message from our State Executive Director

Rhode Island Farm Service Agency is now available to serve all of you during normal business hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. We are open, funded and fully operational. Due to the recent lapse of funding that our agency endured, program deadlines have been extended, please refer to the program extensions below for further guidance.

To inquire about the programs listed below, please contact the Rhode Island County Office at 401-828-3120 Option 2.

To inquire about any questions or concerns regarding an existing farm loan or obtaining a new farm loan please contact our Farm Loan Team at 401-828-3120 Option 3.

State Committee Meets the second Wednesday of every month subject to change.

Rhode Island County Office:
401-828-3120 Option 2.

County Executive Director:
Sheryl Michener

County Committee: Kim Coulter, Joseph Polseno, Vincent Confreda, Victor Hoogendoorn, Joseph Silveira

County Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month subject to change.

Farm Loan Team: 401-828-3120 Option 3.

Farm Loan Officer Trainee:
Gene Piskator

For any other questions or concerns, please contact the Rhode Island State Office at 401-828-8232.

Thank You,

Michael Sullivan, PhD., Rhode Island State Executive Director

USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Program Deadline Extensions

USDA's Farm Service Agency extended deadlines on many of its programs because of the government shutdown and the emergency nature of many of the programs. Below are updated deadlines:

*** For details on all program deadlines and extensions, view [FSA National Notice CM-807](#)

Farm Programs

- Market Facilitation Program
 - *Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019*
 - Marketing Assistance Loans
 - *If loan matured in December 2018, settlement date extended to Feb. 14, 2019*
 - Emergency Conservation Program
 - *Performance reporting due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Livestock Forage Disaster*
 - *2018 application for payment due Feb. 28, 2019*
 - Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*

 - Livestock Indemnity Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
 - *Submitting 2019 application for coverage due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable) due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - *Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses due Feb. 14, 2019*
 - Tree Assistance Program
 - *Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019*
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Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI)

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location. This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI).

Producers must still visit both their local FSA office and their insurance provider to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps, or provide program-specific information, including reporting uninsured crops to FSA. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

Storage and Handling Trucks Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) provide low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Some storage and handling trucks are eligible for the FSFL. These include:

- **Cold Storage Trucks**-A van or truck designed to carry perishable freight at specific temperatures. Cold storage trucks can be ice-cooled or equipped with any variety of mechanical refrigeration systems.
- **Flatbed Trucks**-Truck with an open body in the form of a platform with no side walls for easy loading and unloading. These trucks can be categorized into different sizes which range from light, medium, or heavy duty, compact or full-size, or short and expandable beds.
- **Grain Trucks**-A piece of farm equipment specially made to accommodate grain products and are traditionally truck chassis units with a mounted grain “dump” body where grain commodities are transported from a field to either a grain elevator or a storage bin.
- **Storage Trucks with a Chassis Unit**-Commonly referred to as a box truck, box van or straight truck, is a truck with a cargo body mounted on the same chassis with the engine and cab.

To be eligible for FSFL, the storage and handling truck must be less than 15 years old and have a maximum of four axles with a gross weight rating of 60,000 pounds or less. Pick-up trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, and simple insulated and ventilated vans are ineligible for FSFL.

FSFL for storage and handling trucks must be \$100,000 or less. FSFL-financed storage and handling trucks must be used for the purpose for which they were acquired for the entire FSFL term.

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture.

For more information or to apply for a FSFL, contact your local [FSA Service Center](#)

Malted Grains and Maple Syrup Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Malted small grains and maple syrup are now eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

FSFLs provide low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The eligible commodities have been expanded to include malted small grains and maple syrup. Eligible malted small grains include barley, oats, rice, rye and wheat. Maple sap is used to produce maple syrup.

The low-interest funds can be used for:

- bottler or filling systems for maple syrup, excluding containers
- equipment to improve, maintain, or monitor the quality of stored FSFL commodities, such as cleaners, moisture testers, heat detectors, along with a proposed storage facility
- handling and drying equipment determined by the County Committee to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a storage system
- electrical equipment, such as pumps, lighting, motors, and wiring, integral to the proper operation of the storage and handling equipment, excluding installing electric service to the electrical meter.

FSFLs are not available for the actual processing of the small grain into the malted commodity or maple sap into maple syrup. Additionally, purchased commodities are not eligible for FSFLs.

The following storage and handling equipment is ineligible for FSFLs:

- boiling equipment
- feed handling and processing equipment
- production and feed facilities
- structures of a temporary nature not having a useful life of the term of the loan
- maple sap tubing and pumping systems.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA office

Reporting Solar Panels Constructed on Cropland

Producers who have solar panels constructed on their farms should notify the local Farm Service Agency office. Any area that is no longer considered suitable as cropland (producing annual or perennial crops) should be designated in FSA's records and aerial photography maps. When base acres on a farm are converted to a non-agricultural commercial or industrial use, the total base acres on the farm must be reduced accordingly. Non-cropland areas used for solar panels might impact payments calculated using base acres, such as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments.

Reporting Wind Turbines Constructed on Cropland

Producers who have wind turbines constructed on their farms should notify the local Farm Service Agency office. Any area that is no longer considered suitable as cropland (producing annual or perennial crops) should be designated in FSA's records and aerial photography maps. When base acres on a farm are converted to a non-agricultural commercial or industrial use, the total base acres on the farm must be reduced accordingly. Non-cropland areas used for wind turbines might impact payments calculated using base acres, such as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments.

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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).