

November 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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- [Deadline Approaches for the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program](#)
- [USDA Market Facilitation Program](#)
- [Expanded Hog Timeline](#)
- [Signup Deadlines for 2017 and 2018 Disaster Assistance for Livestock Programs – ELAP, LIP, and LFP](#)
- [2018 Crop Production Reporting Deadline for NAP Covered Crops](#)
- [2017 ARCPLC and CRP Annual Rental Payments in October](#)
- [CRP Contracts Still in Effect](#)
- [Marketing Assistance Loans Available](#)
- [Payments to Deceased Producers](#)
- [Farm Loan Programs](#)
- [Time to Vote – Choose Your FSA County Committee Representative](#)
- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)

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## Washington State FSA Newsletter

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### Washington State Farm Service Agency

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**State Executive Director:**  
Brian Dansel

### Deadline Approaches for the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program

Washington State Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the deadline to apply for assistance under the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) is Nov. 16, 2018. Agricultural producers affected by hurricanes and wildfires in 2017 can apply for assistance to help recover and rebuild their farming operations.

**State Committee:**

Melanie Wyss, Chair  
Jesus Limon, Member  
Robyn Meenach, Member  
Maureen Harkcom, Member  
Bruce Nelson, Member

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

The program was authorized by Congress earlier this year by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Eligible crops, trees, bushes, or vines, located in a county declared in a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation as a primary county are eligible for assistance if the producer suffered a loss as a result of a hurricane during calendar year 2017. Also, losses located in a county not designated as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a hurricane or wildfire in 2017. A list of counties that received qualifying hurricane declarations and designations is available at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip>. Eligibility is determined by Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees.

Agricultural production losses due to conditions caused by last year's wildfires and hurricanes, including excessive rain, high winds, flooding, mudslides, fire, and heavy smoke, could qualify for assistance through the program. Typically, 2017 WHIP is only designed to provide assistance for production losses, however, if quality was taken into consideration under the insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy, where production was further adjusted, the adjusted production will be used in calculating assistance under this program.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or NAP coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Actuarial Information Browser at

<https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser>.

Producers will be subject to payment limitations based on their average adjusted gross income.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for 2017 WHIP. However, all producers receiving 2017 WHIP payments will be required to purchase crop insurance and/or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available crop years to meet statutory requirements. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable years will be required to pay back the 2017 WHIP payment.

Each producer will be asked to provide acceptable production records which must be either verifiable or reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, USDA will calculate the production based on the higher of the producer certified production and the county disaster yield.

Contact your local county FSSA office to make an appointment to apply. For more information on USDA disaster assistance programs, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>.

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## USDA Market Facilitation Program

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due trade disruptions. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and earn payments to help offset the financial impact of these disruptions.

FSA will provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, wheat, shelled almond, and fresh sweet cherry producers. The payment rates below can be earned today on 50% of a producer's 2018 production. A decision will be made, possibly in December, on what payment rate, if warranted, will be earned on the remaining 50% of the 2018 production. Regardless of the December decision, payments earned today will not be impacted.

Corn	\$0.01/bu.
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12/cwt.
Fresh Sweet Cherries	\$0.16/lb.
Pork	\$8.00/head
Soybeans	\$1.65/bu.
Sorghum	\$0.86/bu.
Wheat	\$0.14/bu.

The sign-up period for MFP runs through Jan. 15, 2019.

To apply, producers must certify to their total 2018 production for all farms. Supporting production records are not required but can be provided. Supporting, verifiable records will be required for any producer later selected for spot check.

A 2018 acreage report for the crop must be on file or the applicant must submit a "late-filed" report and pay a fee to process it. Evidence of the crop must still be present for a late-filed report.

Many cherry producers do not have up-to-date records with FSA for their farms and farm operating structure (corporation, partnership, LLC, etc.). To apply for MFP they will need to provide supporting documentation to help FSA establish those records. These steps must be completed before the MFP application can be processed.

We recommend cherry producers contact their [local FSA office](#) before visiting to make an appointment and learn what basic records they must submit to establish their operations and farms in FSA records. This will save you time in the application process.

For a summary of the MFP program and benefits, view the [MFP Fact Sheet](#).

MFP payments are capped per person or legal entity as follows:

- A combined \$125,000 for eligible crop commodities
- A combined \$125,000 for dairy production and hogs
- A combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherries and almonds

Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

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## Expanded Hog Timeline

USDA has expanded the timeline for producers with whom the Aug. 1, 2018, date does not accurately represent the number of head of live hogs they own. Producers may now choose any date between July 15 to Aug. 15, 2018 that correctly reflects their actual operation.

MFP applications are available online at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing.

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## Signup Deadlines for 2017 and 2018 Disaster Assistance for Livestock Programs – ELAP, LIP, and LFP

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which made several changes to these two disaster programs, Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP), including:

- Removing ELAP's \$20 million fiscal year funding cap, enabling FSA to pay producers' 2017 applications in full and their 2018 applications as soon as they are approved. Removing the per-person and legal entity annual program payment limitation of \$125,000 for LIP for 2017 and future years. (The income limitation applies as it did before, meaning producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$900,000 are not eligible.)
- Changing LIP to allow producers to receive a payment for injured livestock that are sold for a reduced price due to an eligible event. Previously, the program only covered financial loss for livestock death above normal mortality.

2017 ELAP and LIP application periods will close COB, December 3, 2018. For the 2017 program year, individuals and/or entities must submit a completed notice of loss, if applicable, application for payment and required supporting documentation, by **December 3, 2018**.

**Important:** Producers who previously submitted an application and received a decision that was administratively final are not eligible to reapply during the extended sign-up period, unless their application was denied only because their application or notice of loss, if required, was filed after the applicable deadline.

**For 2018 ELAP** program year losses, producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses must file a notice of loss and application for payment with supporting documentation by **December 3, 2018**.

**For 2018 LIP** livestock losses, eligible livestock owners and contract growers must file:

- a notice of loss the later of:
  - 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent to the participant
  - December 3, 2018.
- an application for payment with supporting documents by **March 1, 2019**.

**For 2018 LFP**, eligible livestock producers that suffer grazing losses must file an application for payment and required supporting documents by **January 30, 2019**.

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## 2018 Crop Production Reporting Deadline for NAP Covered Crops

Annual reporting of actual harvested production is a requirement for producers who obtained Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the 2018 crop year. To retain program eligibility for NAP covered crops, participating producers must annually report actual production to retain NAP program benefits and ensure the NAP actual production history (APH) reflects accurate yield data.

Producers of 2018 NAP covered grass for seed and perennial forages for hay must report actual harvested production by no later than **December 15, 2018** along with signing a CCC-452 APH form and filing a CCC-576 NAP Application for Payment form for those crops that have an approved NAP Notice of Loss on file. We realize many grass seed producers may not have the delivered gross pounds of harvested seed cleaned by your seed company yet. If that is the case, we encourage you to report your total dirt weight to meet the deadline for reporting production, filing your actual production history and application for payment forms required for 2018 NAP purposes. Once your grass seed has been cleaned you can provide the final cleaned seed pounds to your county office, for use in your actual production history (APH) and to calculate your NAP benefit if an approved notice of loss has been filed. Actual harvested production for perennial forages must also be reported by the **December 15, 2018** deadline along with the CCC-452 and a CCC-576 to request NAP benefit if an approved notice of loss is on file. Perennial forages include grass, alfalfa, clover and mixed forages intended for mechanically harvested hay.

Producers of 2018 NAP covered honey must provide total harvested production by January 2, 2019 for all honey produced during the 2018 calendar year. 2018 NAP covered tree fruits (apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums) and nuts, blueberries, cranberries and grapes must report actual harvested production by January 15, 2019 along with signing the CCC-452 APH

form and the application for benefit if an approved notice of loss is on file for the NAP covered crops.

If actual harvested production for NAP covered crops is not timely submitted to your local county FSA office, NAP benefits for crop losses will not be earned and the NAP yield will begin to drop significantly, which affects future year NAP coverage levels. If you have any questions about production reporting or NAP payment requirements, contact your county FSA office.

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## 2017 ARCPLC and CRP Annual Rental Payments in October

The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, and CRP Annual Rental payments began to show up in producer's accounts in October. ARCPLC payments will continue to be made as information from crop marketing years becomes available. Although payments will start in October, typically payments will continue through January.

**Producers who have made changes in their direct deposits** must notify FSA of the changes. Forgetting to notify the FSA county office can delay your payments or cause a payment mix-up. If you have questions or need to report a change, contact your [county FSA office](#).

The ARC-CO program provides revenue loss coverage at the county level. ARC-CO payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO guarantee for the covered commodity. Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity. The effective price equals the higher of the market year average price (MYA) or the national average loan rate for the covered commodity.

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## CRP Contracts Still in Effect

Even though the farm bill has expired, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that end in 2019 or later still remain in effect. Payments will continue to be earned and producers' CRP contract obligations still apply. Participants with contracts that include a mid-contract management requirement in 2019 must complete those activities in 2019 or risk being in violation of the contract. Contract provisions like not utilizing the CRP acreage for other purposes, livestock exclusion, controlling weeds, maintaining the cover and not disturbing the land during the April 1 – July 1 primary nesting season all remain in effect. Contact the FSA office that administers your contract if you have questions.

Applications to enroll in new CRP contracts cannot be accepted until a new farm bill is passed.

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## Marketing Assistance Loans Available

Now that your 2018 crops are safely stored in your local warehouse and/or farm storage, keep in mind that FSA Marketing Assistance Loans can help with short term cash flow needs without selling your stored commodities. In the current marketing environment, a commodity loan can be used to delay sale of your crop until more favorable marketing conditions emerge, using your stored crop as collateral for the loan. Commodity loans mature nine months after the month the loan is approved, and funds are disbursed. Crops eligible for a marketing assistance loan are wheat, barley, oats,

corn, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, rapeseed, sesame seed, grain sorghum, mustard seed, safflower seed, soybeans, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, wool and mohair.

To be eligible for a marketing assistance loan, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity which is defined as having title, possession and control of the commodity. During the term of the loan, quality of the stored crop must be maintained, and you are responsible for loss of or damage to the commodity held as the loan collateral.

For warehouse stored commodities, it is vital that warehouse receipts provide all necessary information and are a negotiable paper receipt or electronic warehouse receipt. FSA county office staff are required to complete a validation worksheet to ensure all mandatory entries are included for each warehouse receipt. Your loan cannot be approved and disbursed until valid warehouse receipts are provided to the county office. Warehouse receipts must show the type of commodity, name and address of the storing warehouse, CCC-assigned warehouse code, warehouse receipt number, date receipt issued, date commodity was deposited or received, in or out charges have been prepaid or a statement that indicates payment arrangement, handling charges prepaid or statement of payment arrangement, storage has been prepaid or statement of payment arrangement, storage start date, whether commodity was received by rail/truck/barge, and signature of authorized warehouse operator or authorized agent. Warehouse receipt requirements for each specific commodity includes, but is not limited to, gross weight in pounds and net bushels/hundredweight/pounds/tons in decimal hundredths, class, subclass (if applicable), grade (including special grades, if applicable), moisture, test weight, protein, damage, defects, dockage, and grading factors that substantiate the grade assigned by the warehouse operator.

Contact your local county FSA office for more information about Marketing Assistance Loans.

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## Payments to Deceased Producers

In order to claim a Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment on behalf of a deceased producer, **all program conditions for the payment must have been met before the applicable producer's date of death.**

If a producer earned a FSA payment prior to becoming deceased, the following is the order of precedence of the representatives of the producer:

- administrator or executor of the estate
- the surviving spouse
- surviving sons and daughters, including adopted children
- surviving father and mother
- surviving brothers and sisters
- heirs of the deceased person who would be entitled to payment according to the State law

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## Farm Loan Programs

The **Farm Service Agency** has several options for producers who consider applying for a Farm Loan. One option is the **Microloan** application. This application is typically used if you are applying for a loan under \$50,000. One of the advantages of the Microloan is the reduced application requirements that usually only consist of the following:

**Form FSA-2330:** This is the official application form and is used to obtain information on applicants applying for Microloan assistance. The document collects general information, financial information and farm training background.

**Financial and Production Records:** Financial and production records for the most recent production cycle, if available and practicable, to project the cash flow of the operating cycle. Often times this information may have already been provided on the FSA-2330 application form.

**Credit Report:** Applicants pay a credit report fee so FSA can obtain your credit history. The amount of the fee varies, depending on the structure of your business and how many people are applying for the loan.

**Environmental Compliance:** An FSA loan official will help you in determining if you have met all applicable environmental regulations and requirements.

**Other Documents:** For entity applicants, additional information will be required of each member of the entity. Entity applicants will need to discuss the structure of the business with an FSA loan official.

If your Microloan application is for a **real estate loan** you must also include the following a copy of the property purchase agreement and verification of your farming experience.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of your local FSA Farm Loan Team or visit

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

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## Time to Vote – Choose Your FSA County Committee Representative

You have an opportunity to choose your representative on your local Farm Service Agency County Committee. FSA encourages farmers and ranchers to make your voices heard by voting in the upcoming Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee elections. Ballots are mailed November 5, 2018. Return ballots to your local FSA office by the **December 3, 2018** deadline to ensure that your vote is counted. FSA county committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers and can settle producer appeals of FSA decisions. They also hire the County Executive Director. Many committees will be making these decisions in 2018.

In a lead up to the annual FSA County Committee elections, county committee members in various parts of the state shared their committee experiences during video interviews. The video can be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/179333687>.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week may pick one up at your local FSA office. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than **December 3, 2018**. A list of candidates for FSA elections in Washington state may found

online or obtained from your local FSA office. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office **January 1, 2019**.

You are encouraged to get to know your committee members and what they do. Vote in the November elections. Contact your county FSA office for more information or check the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

**November 20, 2018** – Deadline to obtain 2019 crop year NAP coverage for all perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category; asparagus, berries, grapes, honey, hops, tree fruits and nuts

**December 3, 2018** – Last day for 2017 & 2018 ELAP and 2017 LIP applications and supporting documents

**December 15, 2018** – 2019 crop acreage reporting deadline for fall-seeded crops. This includes fall-planted alfalfa, canola, lentils, mint, onions, peas, and small grains.

**December 15, 2018** – Deadline to report actual harvested production of 2018 NAP covered grass seed and perennial forage crops.

**January 15, 2019** – Deadline to enroll in MFP

### Acreage Reporting

**December 15, 2018** – Fall planted crops

**January 2, 2019** – Honey

**January 15, 2019** – Fruits, berries and nuts

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