

December 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Washington State FSA Newsletter

Washington State Farm Service Agency

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State Committee:
Melanie Wyss, Chair
Jesus Limon, Member
Robyn Meenach, Member

Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

MFP signup continues through **January 15, 2019**. Producers of wheat, corn, milk, fresh sweet cherries, hogs, soybeans or sorghum can qualify for payments to offset the impact of ongoing trade disruptions. Payments are based on the producer's total 2018 production, which the applicant must report when applying for MFP. Payment rates announced earlier this year apply to the first 50% of the 2018 production. It is anticipated that the payment rates applicable to the second 50% of the 2018 production will be announced in December. Contact your local FSA office to apply or visit farmers.gov. Electronic applications can be filed online by producers who own the crop as an individual and who have a Level 2 eAuthorization. Producers whose ownership of the crop is through an entity like a corporation, partnership or LLC must contact their FSA office to apply.

Maureen Harkcom, Member
Bruce Nelson, Member

Changes to USDA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has established a new acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage for 2019 and subsequent crop years. Previously set in the fall, the new deadline is July 15 for perennial forage in all states, including Washington.

Timely and accurate acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including prevented planting or failed acreage, are the foundation for many FSA program benefits, including disaster programs for livestock owners. Producers must report their acreage to maintain program eligibility.

Producers who have coverage for perennial forage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report their 2019 crop acreage by the **earlier** of the following:

- the established acreage reporting date (July 15, 2019)
- 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported
- the established normal harvest date for the end of the coverage period.

Contact your local county office if you have any questions about reporting your perennial forage.

2018 Crop Production Reporting Deadlines for NAP Covered Honey, Tree Fruits, Berries and Grapes

Producers of 2018 NAP covered honey must report total harvested production by **January 2, 2019** for all honey produced during the 2018 calendar year. Producers of 2018 NAP covered tree fruits (apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums), nuts, blueberries, cranberries and grapes must report actual harvested production by **January 15, 2019**. To report production, complete and sign form CCC-452 obtained from your local FSA county office.

Deadline Approaching for County Committee Election Ballots

December 3, 2018 is the final date to return your FSA county committee election ballot. You may submit ballots in person to local USDA service centers or mail your ballots to your local USDA service center. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than **December 3, 2018**. FSA county committees are your opportunity to have an impact on federal farm programs locally. County committees ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA programs. They are responsible for the hiring of the County Executive Directors and are the place that producers can appeal most agency determinations. To be eligible to vote, you must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program or have your farm on record with FSA and be of legal voting age. Each

county committee draws its members from local administrative areas. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year.

Farm Loans

FSA provides 3 types of Direct Farm Ownership loans, each with their own advantages. Interested producers have the option of either applying directly for 100% financing with FSA, or they can obtain joint financing with FSA and a commercial lender. Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged farmers with at least 5% down payment also have the option a loan with even more unique rates and terms. The FSA loan limit for all types of real estate financing cannot exceed \$300,000. A FSA Direct Farm Ownership loan can be used for:

- Purchase a farm or ranch
- Enlarge an existing farm or ranch
- Make a down payment on a farm
- Purchase of easements
- Construct, purchase or improve farm dwellings, service buildings or other facilities and improvements essential to the farm operation
- Promote soil and water conservation and protection
- Pay loan closing costs

If you are interested in a Direct Farm Ownership loan, please contact your local FSA Farm Loan team or research online at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-ownership-loans/index>

Commodity Loan Disbursements By End Of 2018 Calendar Year

If you are interested in obtaining a commodity loan, with funds disbursed before the end of 2018 calendar year, please request your loan and submit all required documents by December 21st. Or contact your local county office staff to verify when they will be available during the busy holiday season to process your loan request. Staff will need sufficient time to process your loan and trigger it for disbursement by **no later than noon on Thursday December 27th**. After that, loan requests and funds cannot be disbursed until payment software is re-opened on the first workday of the New Year, **January 2, 2019**.

Reporting Solar Panels or Wind Turbines Constructed on Cropland

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

Important Dates and Deadlines

December 3, 2018 – Deadline to return or postmark ballots to the county office for the COC Election

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

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

January 2, 2019 – 2018 Honey Production for NAP

January 15, 2019 – Deadline to enroll in MFP

Acreage Reporting

December 15, 2018 – Fall planted crops

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.

January 2, 2019 – Honey – 2019 Colony Inventory Report

January 15, 2019 – Fruits, berries and nuts

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).

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