

March 2019



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER

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

- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Update Your Records](#)
- [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](#)
- [Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines](#)
- [NRCS Wisconsin Announces 2019 EQIP Signup Deadline](#)
- [Changes Made to IRS 1099-G Forms](#)
- [Dairy Revenue Protection Program Informational Meetings Offered by UW-Extension](#)
- [Current Interest Rates](#)

Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency **Dates to Remember**

8030 Excelsior Dr.
Suite 100
Madison, WI 53717
Phone: 608-662-4422
Fax: 855-758-0755

State Executive Director:
Sandy Chalmers

Farm Loan Chief:
Tom Brandt

Farm Program Chiefs:
Greg Biba
John Palmer

State Committee:
Lisa Condon, Chair
Thomas Gillis
David Heideman
Kevin Hoyer
Tom McClellan

March 1, 2019: Last day to submit application for payment and supporting documentation for 2018 livestock losses under the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#)

March 15, 2019: Application deadline to purchase [Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP) for 2019 spring-seeded crops

March 31, 2019: Last day to obtain [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) on 2018 small grain crops

[BACK TO TOP](#)

www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file, they need to be reported to our office. **Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well.** Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

Wisconsin's farm loan teams are already working on operating loans for spring 2019. Potential borrowers are encouraged to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The Farm Loan Team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff in your local FSA office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call your local FSA office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA. To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadlines in March and May.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in Wisconsin have approaching deadlines:

March 15, 2019 (for crop year beginning April 15, 2019): All spring-seeded annual crops, including but not limited to: Artichokes, Barley, Beets, Broccoli, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Buckwheat, Cabbage, Camelina, Canola, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Chickory/Radicchio, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Eggplant, Ginger, Greens, Herbs, Honeydew, Horseradish, Israel Melons, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kohlrabi, Korean Golden Melon, Leeks, Lettuce, Oats, Okra, Onions, Parsnip, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radish, Rutabaga, Scallions, Shallots, Sorghum, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflowers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Turnips, and Watermelon.

May 1, 2019 (for crop year beginning June 1, 2019): Nursery

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2019/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact your local FSA office or visit the web at <http://offices.usda.gov>.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NRCS Wisconsin Announces 2019 EQIP Signup Deadline

Farmers and forest landowners interested in the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) need to apply by May 17, 2019, for funding in 2019. Applications are being taken at all [USDA Service Centers](#) in Wisconsin for select special initiatives. Don't delay; contact your local USDA Service Center NOW to get started.

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 110 basic conservation practices. Last year, Wisconsin received over \$35 million in funds for EQIP practices.

All eligible applications received by May 17, 2019, will be evaluated for funding in 2019. Farmers may contact their local USDA Service Center to get started on producer eligibility and planning. Farmers who are interested in practices that may require permits, such as manure storage or streambank restoration, are reminded to begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible. Applicants with shovel-ready projects (designs completed and permit applications submitted) will receive higher priority.

Sign up by May 17, 2019, for several special initiatives focusing on conservation efforts. Special sign-up opportunities are now open for Beginning Farmer, Farmstead, and Soil Health, as well four landscape-based initiatives. All offer technical and financial assistance through EQIP.

Landowners interested in applying for EQIP funding should contact their local NRCS office at the [USDA Service Center](#) in their county. For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Changes Made to IRS 1099-G Forms

In years past, IRS Forms 1099-G were issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

This year, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 do not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who received payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties was \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Dairy Revenue Protection Program Informational Meetings Offered by UW-Extension

University of Wisconsin-Extension continues to offer a number of meetings across the state for farmers interested in learning about the new Dairy Revenue Protection Program, a new federal insurance tool, with a quarterly payout to dairy farms when milk revenue falls below their insured revenue level. Mark Stephenson, Director of the UW-Center for Dairy Profitability, will provide a comprehensive overview of the Dairy Revenue Protection Program and updates to the FSA Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP), as another tool for dairy farmers when milk prices are low.

The discussion will cover the following specific information for dairy farmers considering the program:

- New Dairy Revenue Protection (RP) program structure and function
- Overview of Dairy programs RP, MPP and Livestock Gross Margins (LGM)
- FSA implementation
- Expected returns
- Decision making tool & calculations

Registration is recommended for meeting materials. The following UW-Extension meetings on the Dairy Revenue Protection program are available by date and location. For registration, more information and questions, contact the UW-Extension office by meeting location.

Upcoming Program dates and locations:

March 5, 2019, 10 a.m. - Green Lake County UW-Extension, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI
Contact: Ben Jenkins, Green Lake County UW-Extension, (920) 294-4032

March 11th, 2019 10 a.m. - Black River Falls, Jackson County UW-Extension office 227 S. 11th Street, Black River Falls, WI
Contact: Jaime Pfaff, Jackson County UW-Extension, (715) 284-4257

March 11th, 2019 1 p.m. - Blair Community Center, 103 E Broadway Street, Blair WI
Contact: Steve Okonek, Trempealeau County UW-Extension, (715) 538-2311 ext. 376

March 20, 2019, 10 a.m. - Brillion Community Center Street, Brillion, WI
Contact: Amber O'Brien, Calumet County UW-Extension, (920) 849-1450

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Current Interest Rates

*Interest rates are announced at the beginning of each month.

[Click here to find notification of current FSFL and commodity loan interest rates.](#)

[Click here to view current Farm Loan interest rates.](#)

Farm Loan Interest Rates MARCH 2019

Farm Operating- Direct	3.500%
Farm Operating- Microloan	3.500%
Farm Ownership- Direct	4.000%
Farm Ownership- Microloan	4.000%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loans MARCH 2019 (FSFL)

3 year FSFL	2.500%
5 year FSFL	2.500%
7 year FSFL	2.625%
10 year FSFL	2.750%
12 year FSFL	2.750%

9-Month Commodity Loans MARCH 2019

Marketing Assistance Loan	3.625%
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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).

[BACK TO TOP](#)