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Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER

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Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

Dates to Remember

September 11, 2019: Signup begins for Wildlife and Hurricane Indemnity Plus WHIP+ (covers 2018 and 2019 weather events)

October 7, 2019: Election and Enrollment period begins for 2019 & 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)

October 31, 2019: Deadline to apply for cost share assistance through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) for expenses paid from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019

November 15, 2019: Acreage reporting deadline (Annual Reporting Date) for 2020 fall mint and fall-seeded small grains

November 20, 2019: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application deadline for 2020 crops including apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, currants, grapes, honey, hops, maple sap, pears, and strawberries

December 6, 2019: Deadline to sign up for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

December 13, 2019: Election period deadline for 2020 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program

BACK TO TOP

USDA Opens 2020 Enrollment for Dairy Margin Coverage Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened signup for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program for calendar year 2020. Dairy producers can now enroll in this program that helps producers manage economic risk brought on by milk price and feed cost disparities.

The DMC program offers reasonably priced protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. The deadline to enroll in DMC for 2020 is Dec. 13, 2019.

Dairy farmers earned more than $300 million dollars from the program in 2019 so far. Producers are encouraged to take advantage of this very important risk management tool for 2020.

All producers who want 2020 coverage, even those who took advantage of the 25 percent premium discount by locking in the coverage level for five years of margin protection coverage are required to visit the office during this signup period to pay the annual administrative fee.

Dairy producers should definitely consider coverage for 2020 as even the slightest drop in the margin can trigger payments.

More Information

The 2018 Farm Bill created DMC, improving on the previous safety net for dairy producers. DMC is one of many programs that FSA and other USDA agencies are implementing to support America's farmers.

For more information on enrolling in DMC and taking advantage of an online dairy decision tool that assists producers in selecting coverage for 2020, visit the DMC webpage.

For additional questions and assistance, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Wisconsin Farmers Hurt by 2018, 2019 Disasters

Agricultural producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and/or 2019 can apply through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Sign-up for this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program began Sept. 11.

WHIP+ Eligibility

WHIP+ will be available for producers who have suffered eligible losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only). Disaster losses must have been a result of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, producers in counties that did not receive a disaster declaration or designation may still apply for WHIP+ but must provide supporting documentation to establish that the crops were directly affected by a qualifying disaster loss.

A list of counties that received qualifying disaster declarations and designations is available at farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus. Because grazing and livestock losses, other than milk losses, are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), those losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Wisconsin Farmers Hurt by 2018, 2019 Disasters (continued)

through USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) Actuarial Information Browser at webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser.

The WHIP+ payment factor ranges from 75 percent to 95 percent, depending on the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2018 or 2019 will receive 70 percent of the expected value of the crop. Insured crops (either crop insurance or NAP coverage) will receive between 75 percent and 95 percent of expected value; those who purchased the highest levels of coverage will receive 95-percent of the expected value.

At the time of sign-up, producers will be asked to provide verifiable and reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, WHIP+ payments will be determined based on the lower of either the actual loss certified by the producer and determined acceptable by FSA or the county expected yield and county disaster yield. The county disaster yield is the production that a producer would have been expected to make based on the eligible disaster conditions in the county.

WHIP+ payments for 2018 disasters will be eligible for 100 percent of their calculated value. WHIP+ payments for 2019 disasters will be limited to an initial 50 percent of their calculated value, with an opportunity to receive up to the remaining 50 percent after January 1, 2020, if sufficient funding remains.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for WHIP+. All producers receiving WHIP+ payments will be required to purchase crop insurance or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available, consecutive crop years after the crop year for which WHIP+ payments were paid. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable, consecutive years will be required to pay back the WHIP+ payment.

Additional information about WHIP+ program eligibility and payment limitations can be found at farmers.gov/recover or by contacting your local USDA Service Center.

Additional Loss Coverage
The Milk Loss Program will provide payments to eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market because of a qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disaster. Producers who suffered losses of harvested commodities, including hay, stored in on-farm structures in 2018 and 2019 will receive assistance through the On-Farm Storage Loss Program.

Additionally, producers with trees, bushes or vines can receive both cost-share assistance through FSA's Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for the cost of replanting and rehabilitating eligible trees and WHIP+ will provide payments based on the loss value of the tree, bush or vine itself. Therefore, eligible producers may receive both a TAP and a 2017 WHIP or WHIP+ payment for the same acreage. In addition, TAP policy has been updated to assist eligible orchardists or nursery tree growers of pecan trees with a tree mortality rate that exceeds 7.5 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) but is less than 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) for losses incurred during 2018.

Additionally, the disaster relief measure expanded coverage of the 2017 WHIP to include losses from Tropical Storm Cindy, and peach and blueberry crop losses that resulted from extreme cold.

Prevented Planting
Agricultural producers faced significant challenges planting crops in 2019 in many parts of the country. All producers with flooding or excess moisture-related prevented planting insurance claims in calendar year 2019 will receive a prevented planting supplemental disaster ("bonus") payment equal to 10 percent of their prevented planting indemnity, plus an additional 5 percent will be provided to those who purchased harvest price option coverage.

As under 2017 WHIP, WHIP+ will provide prevented planting assistance to uninsured producers, NAP producers and producers who may have been prevented from planting an insured crop in the 2018 crop year and those 2019 crops that had a final planting date prior to January 1, 2019.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA service center or visit farmers.gov/recover. For all available USDA disaster assistance programs, go to USDA's disaster resources website.

USDA Opens 2019 and 2020 Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, two popular safety net programs, for the 2019 and 2020 crop year. The deadline to complete the election and enrollment process for 2019 is March 15, 2020. The deadline to complete the 2020 enrollment is June 30, 2020.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and made updates to these two USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. PLC program provides income support payments on historical base acres when the price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Updated provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill allow producers with an interest in a farm to enroll and elect coverage in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for program year 2019. The election applies to both the 2019 and 2020 crop years. If a 2019 election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2020, the election defaults to the current elections of the crops on the farm established under the 2014 Farm Bill. No payments will be earned in 2019 if the election defaults.

For crop years 2021 through 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Once the 2019 election and enrollment are completed, producers on the farm for 2020 can complete an enrollment contract for the 2020 crop year beginning Oct. 7, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Effective Oct. 7, 2019, producers are afforded the opportunity to enroll in either program for both 2019 and 2020 during the same office visit. During this time, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that takes effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update may be completed during the same office visit.

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University are offering web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. These decision tools can be found at fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some forms of crop insurance. Producers who elect and enroll in PLC also have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers of covered commodities who elect ARC are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our program fact sheet or our 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet, or visit fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

BACK TO TOP

The Importance of Maintaining FSA Loan Collateral

FSA loan contracts require borrowers to take care of all property used to secure a loan. If a loan is secured by real estate, borrowers must follow all farm and ranch conservation, environmental, or management plans. Do not change the use of the property (for example, from farmland to a quarry) or sell or allow removal of timber, sand, gravel, oil, gas, coal, or other minerals without the written consent of FSA. If another lender has a lien on the property in addition to FSA, borrowers will need to obtain the other lender's approval as well.

In addition to the requirements listed above, remember these points while maintaining loan collateral:

- Borrowers must obtain approval of FSA to lease property that is part of FSA collateral.
- All environmental laws and requirements must be obeyed.
- Borrowers must pay all taxes on property securing an FSA loan.
- Insurance is required on all property that serves as FSA loan collateral. A copy of the insurance must be provided to FSA, if requested.
- Borrowers must pay for or reimburse FSA for the cost of filing or renewing paperwork needed to keep legal loan documents current during the life of the loan.
- If any other legal claim is filed against FSA collateral, borrowers may be in default on FSA loan agreements.

FSA will inspect farms to make sure that borrowers are taking care of loan collateral and keeping with the promises and agreements made in FSA loan documents. If you have any loan questions, reach out to the local loan official. To find your local office, visit http://offices.usda.gov.

BACK TO TOP

Sign Up for GovDelivery Bulletins from USDA-NRCS

Interested in learning more about conservation, technical, and financial assistance you can receive from our partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)?

NRCS can help you try cover crops, no-till, and more through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP alone has over 100 different conservation practices for landowners to sign up for.

Join the NRCS Wisconsin GovDelivery to get announcements about program signups, farmers successes, tips on cover crops, and more by visiting: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usdanrcs/subscriber/new. Through this link, pick any topics for which you would like to receive updates.

BACK TO TOP

October 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	**OCTOBER 2019**
Farm Operating- Direct	2.625%
Farm Operating- Microloan	2.625%
Farm Ownership- Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership- Microloan	3.250%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.625%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)	**OCTOBER 2019**
3-year FSFL	1.500%
5-year FSFL	1.500%
7-year FSFL	1.625%
10-year FSFL	1.625%
12-year FSFL	1.750%

9-Month Commodity Loans	**OCTOBER 2019**
Marketing Assistance Loan	2.750%

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