

February 2020



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER

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- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Friday Is the Last Day to Schedule and Appointment with Your FSA Office to Enroll in CRP General Signup](#)
- [USDA Announces Details of Risk Management Programs for Hemp Producers](#)
- [Enrollment Deadline for ARC/PLC Approaching Soon](#)
- [Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines](#)
- [February Interest Rates](#)

Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency **Dates to Remember**

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February 28, 2020: Deadline to sign up for [General Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#). (Continuous CRP is ongoing.)

March 1, 2020: Deadline for producers to file and application for payment and provide supporting documentation for 2019 [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) losses.

March 16, 2020: Signup deadline for 2019 [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\)](#) and [Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\)](#)

March 16, 2020: [Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) Application deadline to purchase loss coverage for 2020 spring-seeded crops

March 31, 2020: Final day to obtain [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) on 2019 crop small grains

[BACK TO TOP](#)

www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

Friday Is the Last Day to Schedule and Appointment with Your FSA Office to Enroll in CRP General Signup

Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) 2020 general signup must make an offer of acres or schedule an appointment to do so with their local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) service center by Friday, February 28.

The general signup – which opened in December – is available to producers and private landowners who are either offering for the first time or re-offering acres for another 10- to 15-year term in the 35-year-old USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) conservation program.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll land in CRP receive yearly rental payments for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), which can control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP currently has about 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill raises the cap to 27 million acres in fiscal year 2023. The cap for fiscal year 2020 is 24.5 million acres.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the U.S. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion by taking marginal lands out of production.

Producers and landowners interested in the general signup must contact their FSA county office by Friday, February 28 to schedule an appointment. Visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find nearest FSA county office.

Other CRP opportunities are also available, including, the [CRP continuous signup](#), which is ongoing. CRP Grasslands signup runs from March 16, 2020 to May 15, 2020. In the Prairie Pothole states (Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota), producers may also be eligible to offer land in the recently announced [CRP Soil Health and Income Protection Program](#) pilot signup, which runs from March 30, 2020 to August 21, 2020 on a first come, first serve basis. To learn more about CRP, visit fsa.usda.gov/crp, which includes a webinar on the CRP general signup.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

USDA Announces Details of Risk Management Programs for Hemp Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of two programs that protect hemp producers' crops from natural disasters. A pilot hemp insurance program through Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) provides coverage against loss of yield because of insurable causes of loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain or Cannabidiol (CBD) oil and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage protects against losses associated with lower yields, destroyed crops or prevented planting where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. Producers may apply now, and the deadline to sign up for both programs is March 16, 2020.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

NAP provides coverage against loss for hemp grown for fiber, grain, seed or CBD for the 2020 crop year where no permanent federal crop insurance program is available.

NAP basic 50/55 coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases. The 2018 Farm Bill allows for buy-up levels of NAP coverage from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.

USDA Announces Details of Risk Management Programs for Hemp Producers (continued)

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Pilot Insurance Program

The MPCPI pilot insurance is a new crop insurance option for hemp producers in select counties of 21 states for the 2020 crop year. The program is available for eligible producers in certain counties in Alabama, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. Information on eligible counties is accessible through the USDA Risk Management Agency's Actuarial Information Browser.

Among other requirements, to be eligible for the pilot program, a hemp producer must have at least one year of history producing the crop and have a contract for the sale of the insured hemp. In addition, the minimum acreage requirement is 5 acres for CBD and 20 acres for grain and fiber. Hemp will not qualify for replant payments or prevented plant payments under MPCPI.

This pilot insurance coverage is available to hemp growers in addition to revenue protection for hemp offered under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection plan of insurance. Also, beginning with the 2021 crop year, hemp will be insurable under the Nursery crop insurance program and the Nursery Value Select pilot crop insurance program. Under both nursery programs, hemp will be insurable if grown in containers and in accordance with federal regulations, any applicable state or tribal laws and terms of the crop insurance policy.

Eligibility Requirements

Under a regulation authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and issued in October 2019, all growers must have a license to grow hemp and must comply with applicable state, tribal or federal regulations or operate under a state or university research pilot, as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Producers must report hemp acreage to FSA after planting to comply with federal and state law enforcement. The Farm Bill defines hemp as containing 0.3 percent or less tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry-weight basis. Hemp having THC above the federal statutory compliance level of 0.3 percent is an uninsurable or ineligible cause of loss and will result in the hemp production being ineligible for production history purposes.

For more information on USDA risk management programs for hemp producers, visit farmers.gov/hemp to read our [frequently asked questions](#). For more information on the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program, visit USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services' website to read their [frequently asked questions](#).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Enrollment Deadline for ARC/PLC Approaching Soon

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. March 16, 2020 is the enrollment deadline for the 2019 crop year.

FSA anticipates 1.5 million producers will enroll for ARC and PLC. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

Producers are encouraged to follow the following steps to complete their ARC/PLC program elections:

1. Schedule an appointment with your [local office](#) now; many producers will be scheduling appointments between now and the March 16, 2020 deadline. If you already have an appointment scheduled and aren't able to make it, please contact the office as soon as you can to reschedule.

Enrollment Deadline for ARC/PLC Approaching Soon (continued)

2. Research the three different program options: ARC-Individual, ARC-County, and PLC. The [University of Wisconsin, Division of Extension created a website](#) with links to calculators, videos, articles and, materials from other Universities that can help you research your options. Paul Mitchell with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Agriculture and Applied Economics posted [a blog with valuable information](#) for Wisconsin producers.

In addition to resources provided by the UW, other resources are available to help you make decisions that are best for your operation. The Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University, in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Policy Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri, have developed an online tool. Additionally, the National Coalition for Producer Education (NCPE), led by the University of Illinois, has a tool available. Both can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

3. Know what farms you operated in 2019 and what farms you will be operating in 2020. ARC/PLC contracts are enrolled by farm number; make the most of your visit and ensure that all eligible farms are enrolled to avoid follow-up trips to the office.

4. Share your program election choices with FSA. Contracts are loaded in the computer system and printed farm-by-farm. If you have multiple farms, plan accordingly for your appointment.

5. Complete your 2019 program election and sign up by March 16, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled in ARC or PLC for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office. Additionally, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that take effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update and enrollments may be completed during the same office visit.

To be eligible for payments, producers must annually enroll before the deadline.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our [program fact sheet](#) or our [2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet](#). Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. To enroll, contact your [FSA county office](#) for an appointment.

[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 deadline of March 16, 2020.

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 an upcoming NAP application deadline:

March 16, 2020 (for crop year beginning April 15, 2020): All spring-seeded annual crops, including but not limited to: Artichokes, Barley, Beets, Broccoli, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Buckwheat, Cabbage, Camelina, Canols, 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.

Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines (continued)

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser2020/>

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 office. To find your local office visit <http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator> or to learn more about NAP visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

February 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	February 2020
Farm Operating- Direct	2.625%
Farm Operating- Microloan	2.625%
Farm Ownership- Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership- Microloan	3.250%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint	2.500%
Financing	
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)	February 2020
3-year FSFL	1.625%
5-year FSFL	1.625%
7-year FSFL	1.750%
10-year FSFL	1.875%
12-year FSFL	1.875%
9-Month Commodity Loans	February 2020
Marketing Assistance Loan	2.500%

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).

