

October 16, 2014



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

- [USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Key Dates for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs](#)
- [2015 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops](#)
- [Farm Loan Program Limits](#)
- [NAP Coverage Deadlines](#)
- [Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers](#)
- [2014 MAL and LDP Requests](#)
- [Youth Loans](#)

Ohio FSA State News and Updates

Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office

200 North High St. Rm. 540
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-255-2441
Fax: 855-832-5100

State Executive Director:
Steven Maurer

Administrative Officer:
Mimi Garringer

Conservation Chief:
Brandi Koehler

Farm Loan Chief:
David Drake

Price Support Chief:
Carletha Fasching

**Production Adjustment,
Compliance and Risk
Management Chief:**
Matt Kleski

State Committee:

USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Key Dates for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

USDA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit your Administrative County FSA office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres, the first step before choosing which new program best serves their risk management needs.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015:** Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under

Bob Boggs, Chairperson
Bruce Long, member
Jim Rex, member
Jim Zumbrink, member

possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Please contact your [FSA County Office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Producers can contact their [County FSA office](#) for more information on ARC and PLC or to schedule an appointment to update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres.

Visit the Ohio FSA website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

2015 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed and the acreage reporting date is **Dec. 15, 2014**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please call to schedule an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,392,000 starting on October 1, 2014. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,692,000.

For detailed information, contact your FSA County office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

NAP Coverage Deadlines

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2015 NAP coverage on Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Forage for Hay and Pasture, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Strawberries, Honey and Maple Sap is **Nov. 20, 2014** in Ohio.

Producers who already have coverage on 2015 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2015, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Nov. 20, 2014. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with

farming interest in multiple counties.

NAP coverage is only available for crops not covered under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops and producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your [FSA County office](#).

Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) for dairy producers. The new, voluntary risk management program replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which expired.

MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference (the margin) between the all-milk price and national average feed cost falls below a certain producer selected amount.

Eligible producers may purchase coverage for their dairy operation by paying an annual administrative fee of \$100 and a premium, as applicable, for higher levels of coverage. Producers in the dairy operation will have to select a desired coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$8.00, in \$0.50 increments and a desired coverage percentage level ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments. Producers will also have to decide whether or not to participate in the MPP-Dairy Program or the Livestock Gross Margin program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), but they will not be allowed to participate in both.

The Dairy Margin Protection Program decision tool is available [online](#) to help producers make coverage level decisions. Enrollment ends on Nov. 28, 2014, for 2014 and 2015. Participating farmers must remain in the program through 2018 and pay a minimum \$100 administrative fee each year. Producers have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year. Dairy operators will establish their production history during sign-up. Verification of the production records will be required. Dairy operations can obtain more information on MPP-Dairy at the FSA county office and [online](#).

2014 MAL and LDP Requests

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for eligible 2014 commodities.

MALs and LDPs for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through a specific commodity's final loan availability date.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool, mohair and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually which includes marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer

whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

For more information, please contact your [County FSA office](#).

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA's Youth loan program, contact your [County FSA office](#) to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official or view the youth loan fact sheet [here](#).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).