



December 2018 Newsletter

Current Reminders

- **Call your agent right away if you still have standing crops in the field. The deadline to file a claim in this situation is 12/25/18.**
- The end of the insurance period is December 10th for corn and soybeans. Any crops in the field after the 10th will be appraised. All claims must be reported to the insurance company no later than 15 days after completion of harvest or December 25th; whichever comes first.
- Bushels reported to crop insurance should match the bushels reported at FSA for the MFP program. **Please report bushels to your crop agent as soon as you complete harvest.**

Approaching Deadlines

Deadline to file claims for standing corn, beans	12/25/18
Deadline at FSA to file for MFP applications	1/15/19
Sales closing date for 2019 corn, beans	3/15/19
Production reporting deadline for corn, beans	4/29/19

RMA Announces a New Coverage Option for Crop Insurance

Provides increased flexibility to producers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 2018 – Farmers now have a low-cost option for insuring small parcels of land in one county by combining them into a single enterprise unit with land in a neighboring county under their crop insurance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is offering the new endorsement known as the Multi-County Enterprise Unit for farmers interested in covering two counties in the same state under their crop insurance policy. . .

The endorsement is available for spring crops with a November 30, 2018, and later contract change date. Initially targeted crops include coarse grains (corn, grain sorghum, soybeans), cotton, canola, peanuts, rice, small grains (barley, wheat), and sunflowers.

To qualify for the endorsement, one county must qualify independently for an enterprise unit and the other county must not qualify for an enterprise unit. Both county crop policies in the Multi-County Enterprise Unit must be with the same Approved Insurance Provider and have the same elections for Multi-County Enterprise Units, insurance plan, coverage level, and enterprise unit by practice. Interested farmers should contact their crop insurance agent to discuss options. . .###

This press release has been condensed to fit in this newsletter. The entire press release for Multi-County Enterprise Unit can be found online at <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/News-Room/Press/Press-Releases/2018-News/RMA-18-106>.

USDA Launches Second Round of Trade Mitigation Payments

(Washington, D.C., December 17, 2018) – At the direction of President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today launched the second and final round of trade mitigation payments aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities will now be eligible to receive Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments for the second half of their 2018 production.

"The President reaffirmed his support for American farmers and ranchers and made good on his promise, authorizing the second round of payments to be made in short order. While there have been positive movements on the trade front, American farmers are continuing to experience losses due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. This assistance will help with short-term cash flow issues as we move into the new year," said Perdue.

Secretary Perdue [announced in July](#) that USDA would act to aid farmers in response to trade damage from unjustified retaliation. President Trump directed Secretary Perdue to craft a short-term relief strategy to help protect agricultural producers while the Administration works on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers compete globally. In September, USDA initiated three programs to aid American agriculture in sustaining the short-term damages associated with the trade disputes and securing long-term, stable export markets. . .

Market Facilitation Program

Producers need only sign-up once for the MFP to be eligible for the first and second payments. The MFP sign-up period opened in September and runs through January 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. Producers must complete an application by January 15, 2019 but have until May 1, 2019 to certify their 2018 production. The MFP provides payments to almond, cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherry, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC Charter Act and is under the administration of USDA's FSA. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

For farmers who have already applied, completed harvest, and certified their 2018 production, a second payment will be issued on the remaining 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for the specific commodity.

Market Facilitation Program

Commodity	First and Second Payment Rate	Est. Total Payment** (in \$1,000s)
Corn	\$0.01 / bu.	\$192,000
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12 / cwt.	\$254,800
Pork (hogs)	\$8.00 / head	\$580,600
Soybeans	\$1.65 / bu.	\$7,259,400
Wheat	\$0.14 / bu.	\$238,400

**Total payment rate on 100% of production

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers, and a combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherry and almond producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For more further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov. ###

This press release has been condensed to fit in this newsletter. The entire press release can be found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/12/17/usda-launches-second-round-trade-mitigation-payments>.