

Farm Service Agency News

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, controlled atmosphere storage, floriculture, hops, malted small grains, maple sap, maple syrup, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers. For more information, contact Ohio County USDA Service Center at 270-298-3643, ext. 2, or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

Ask the Expert: A Q&A on Farm Storage Facility Loans

In this Ask the Expert, Toni Williams answers questions about how Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing to help producers build or upgrade commodity storage facilities. Toni is the Agricultural Program Manager for FSFLs at the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Toni has worked for FSA for more than 32 years and is responsible for providing national policy and guidance for Farm Storage Facility Loans.

What are Farm Storage Facility Loans?

Farm Storage Facility Loans provide low-interest financing for eligible producers to build or upgrade facilities to store commodities.

The FSFL program was created in May 2000 to address an existing grain shortage. Historically, FSFLs benefitted grain farmers, but a change in the 2008 Farm Bill extended the program to fruit and vegetable producers for cold storage. An additional change extended the program to washing and packing sheds, where fresh produce is washed, sorted, graded, labeled, boxed up, and stored before it heads to market. Since May 2000, FSA has made more than 40,000 loans for on-farm storage.

Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying and handling and storage equipment including storage and handling trucks are also eligible. Eligible facilities and equipment may be new or used, permanently affixed or portable.

To read the full blog visit farmers.gov/blog/ask-the-expert-qa-on-farm-storage-facility-loans-with-toni-williams.

USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Farmers can use USDA farm ownership microloans to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013.

Microloans can also help with farmland and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program, contact Daviess County USDA Service Center at 270-684-9286 or visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.



Farm and Extension News

BEEF QUALITY& CARE ASSURANCE TRAINING, MARCH 11

Consumers have become more conscientious of where their food comes from and how it is produced — thus every agricultural producer must work diligently to make sure we are producing the safest, most wholesome food products in the world.

We will have a “Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA)” training Tuesday, March 11, at 6 p.m., at the Ohio Co. Extension Center. BQCA training provides beef producers best management practices which ensure the wholesomeness and quality of their beef. BQCA certification is also a requirement of participating in CPH sales and the “Large Animal” area of the CAIP program.

Be sure to check your certification card to see if yours has expired. If so, join us on March 11.

FORAGE TIPS FOR MARCH

✓ Sign up for a KY Grazing or Fencing School ✓ Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes. ✓ Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding. ✓ Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing ✓ Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred) ✓ Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas ✓ Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses but pull off before grazing new clover plants. ✓ Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth. ✓ Early March is an ideal time to control many broadleaf weeds

including: buttercup, poison hemlock, chicory, dock, and biennial thistles.

DRONE SPRAYER TRAINING, MARCH 20

The Kentucky Agricultural Training School will hold a “Drone Sprayer Training” on March 20 at the Lyon Co. Extension office in Eddyville. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. till noon CT.

This program will be in-class training designed for ag professionals and producers to learn about the latest information on drone spray application, efficiency, and safety. Topics to be covered include:

- Results of Drone Sprayer Applications
- Application Accuracy with Drones
- UK Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Overview & Updates
- Category 11 Aerial Application

Refreshments and lunch are included. If you have questions or to register, please contact Lori Rogers (lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-365-7541, ext. 21317).

SOIL BUILDING FIELD DAY, MARCH 13

Do you have fragipan soils on your farm? Have you ever considered there may be a way to improve this situation?

The U.K. Cooperative Extension Service will host a “Soil Building Field Day” on March 13, starting at 9 a.m. CT. The field day will be held in Calloway Co. at the Paschall Ag Operation (1434 Billy Paschall Rd. in Murray).

Dr. Lloyd Murdock, retired Extension Soil Specialist has done research on using ryegrass to mitigate fragipan soil for over 10 years. At this field day you will see firsthand how a local producer completely eradicated the fragipan in a field using a ryegrass cover crop — and Dr. Murdock will be on-site to

explain the process and demonstrate the results.

They will have soil pits dug so you can get an up-close look at the soil layers — both in the treated field and in an adjacent field with no history of ryegrass cover. You’ll be able to see the difference with your own eyes!

After viewing the soil pits, a free lunch will be provided, followed by a short session on the history of this research and how you can apply these methods to your own operation.

The field day is free and open to all interested farmers. They do ask you to RSVP to the Calloway Co. Extension office at 270-753-1452, so they may make plans for lunch.

BULL SALE UPCOMING

Don’t forget the Kentucky-Tennessee Cowman’s Kind Bull Sale this Saturday.

Kentucky-Tennessee Cowman’s Kind Bull Sale — March 15 at the Ky-TN Livestock Market in Guthrie. The sale starts at Noon. Sale includes 30 bulls, including Angus, Hereford, Simmental, Sim-Angus, and Balancer breeds.

This is just one of the many bull sales occurring this spring. If you need more information, contact the Ohio Co. Extension office.

U P C O M I N G EVENTS

March 11: Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training, Ohio Co. Extension Center, 6 p.m.

March 13: Soil Building Field Day, Paschall Ag Operations, Murray, 9 a.m.

March 15: Ky.-Tenn. Cowman’s Kind Bull Sale, KY-TN Livestock Market in Guthrie.

March 20: Drone Sprayer School, U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton.

For information and registration for KATS Workshops visit kats.ca.uky.edu or contact Lori Rogers lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-365-7541,

ext. 21317.

March 27: Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour, Caldwell Co. Extension office, Princeton; 8:30 till 11:30 a.m.

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