

USDA Farm Services Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices. All of the programs listed below are performed through FSA's field staff, which is who farmers go to for first hand advice and information about what is best for their farm. FSA's programs benefit farmers of all kinds, from new and beginning farmers, to veteran farmers, to socially disadvantaged farmers.

Summary

■ Credit

1. ELIMINATING TERM LIMITS ON GUARANTEED FARM LOANS
 - a. Prior to 2014 Farm Bill there was a 15 year term limit for participation
2. LOOSENING THE ACREAGE LIMITATION THRESHOLD
 - a. Eligible farmers will be able to own a farm that has 30 percent or less of the acreage of an average county farm, whereas the previous limit was based on median acreage.
3. MAKES PERMANENT THE FSA MICROLOAN PROGRAM.
 - a. Additionally, microloans made to beginning and veteran farmers will be exempt from the term limits that otherwise apply on direct operating loans.

■ Conservation

1. FACILITATE LAND TRANSFERS THROUGH THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM
 - a. The program encourages enrolled CRP participants to transfer land enrolled under expiring CRP contracts to beginning (or socially disadvantaged) farmers and ranchers engaged in sustainable production practices. The increased authorization under the 2014 Farm Act could facilitate the transfer of land coming out of the CRP to beginning farmers as CRP acreage declines to satisfy its new CRP acreage cap.
2. MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LANDS
 - a. The 2014 Farm Bill waives, for beginning farmers, the 25-percent payment reduction.

■ Disaster Assistance

MAKES PERMANENT THE SUITE OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- a. LIP, LFP, TAP, AND ELAP—provides renewed assurance to tree/nursery and livestock producers regarding protection against losses from natural disasters.