

Enrollment Deadlines Approaching for CRP, ARC, PLC Programs

Monday, February 10, 2020 By Richard Fordyce, USDA
If you're like me, wintertime on the farm means closing out the year before and preparing for the next. From taxes to research, from fixing equipment to buying seed, it's a busy time.

Winter is also an important time to visit your local USDA service center to discuss the many programs offered by the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, especially right now, when there are several signups occurring.

Farmer to farmer, I encourage you to visit your FSA county office soon, especially if you're interested in enrolling in either the Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, or any other FSA programs.

The deadline to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage is March 16, 2020. But we recommend you contact your FSA county office to set up an appointment and begin the enrollment process now.

Why? FSA county offices have multiple programs competing for staff time and attention, and ARC and PLC are important but complex. Plus, if you don't enroll, you cannot receive a payment for the 2019 crop year should one trigger in the fall.

The good news: If you enroll now, you can adjust your elections any time before the deadline. You also have the option to sign up for both 2019 and 2020 at the same time.

For those not familiar with ARC and PLC, these programs provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for American farms.

Meanwhile, the **deadline is February 28 for the first general signup of the Conservation Reserve Program** since 2016. This competitive program provides farmers and ranchers an income source for sensitive lands or lands less suited for farming.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive yearly payments for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving grasses and trees.

ARC, PLC, and CRP are all programs made possible by the 2018 Farm Bill. Our team has worked diligently to roll out the updates that Congress made to these programs as swiftly as possible, and we encourage you to consider enrolling or re-enrolling now.

Make an appointment today with your FSA county office.

Richard Fordyce is a fourth-generation farmer and the administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency.

PCG Annual Meeting

Friday, April 3 • 9 a.m.

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Speaker: David Wasserman

House Editor, The Cook Political Report

Sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress

More information: plainscotton.org

Updated Seed Cotton PLC Payment Matrix Available on PCG Website

Friday, February 14, 2020 By Mary Jane Buerkle
The 2019 Seed Cotton PLC Matrix has been updated to reflect the most recent seed cotton program payment estimate for the 2019/2020 crop year.

The matrix is a helpful decision tool for producers as they begin to make their Title I policy decisions for the 2019 and 2020 crop years. Growers can plug in their own seed cotton yield to estimate their seed cotton PLC payment rate per base acre. The matrix takes into account the marketing year average (MYA) price for lint and seed. It is current as of February 14, 2020 and will be updated monthly throughout the marketing year, which runs from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

The spreadsheet is only available via desktop and is not optimized for mobile. The link can be found on the Tools and Reminders page on the PCG website at <https://plainscotton.org/tools-and-reminders/>.

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences

A complete list is kept updated on the PCG website: <https://plainscotton.org/upcoming-area-ag-conferences/>.

February 20 – NE Panhandle Summer Crops Conference, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Frank Phillips College Allen Campus, **Perryton**. Cost: \$10, lunch provided. 3 CEUs. More info: Scott Strawn, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 435-4501.

February 24 – Hansford/Hutchinson Estate Planning & Farm Bill Meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Hansford AgriLife Office, **Spearman**. Cost: \$10, lunch provided. Auxin Training at 1 p.m. More info: Hansford County Extension (806) 659-4130.

February 25 – Deaf Smith Cotton Conference, Registration 8:30 a.m., Deaf Smith AgriLife Extension Office, **Hereford**. Cost: \$20, lunch included. 3 CEUs. More info: Rick Auckerman, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 364-3573.

February 26 – Central Plains Ag Conference, Registration 8 a.m., Olton Ag Pavilion, **Olton**. Lunch provided, Auxin Certification available. More info: Kerry Siders, (806) 638-5635; Kyle Howard at (806) 620-6595; or Andrew Dunlap at (806) 647-4115.

February 27 – Producer Meeting, 9 a.m., Community Center, **Turkey**. CEU's and Auxin Certification Training included. More info: Mason Carter, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 823-2521.

February 28 – Hub of the Plains Ag Conference, registration 8 a.m., program 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. 4 CEU's offered, including Auxin Certification. More info: Andrew Dunlap, (806) 647-4115.

March 3 – Permian Basin Cotton Conference, 7:30 a.m. registration, auxin training 8-9 a.m., cotton program 9-12:30 p.m. G.C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex, 2401 Echols St., **Big Spring**. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. Total of 4 CEUs available. More info: Tommy Yeater, CEA-AG/NR, (432) 264-2236.