

News Column for Use Week of 12/24/18
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River Valley Extension District
12/20/18

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill 2018)

After some intense debating, the 2018 Farm Bill is on its way to becoming a law. While the 2014 Farm Bill had some major changes, the 2018 Farm Bill has remained relatively “status quo” when compared to the 2014 Farm Bill – albeit, there are still some changes. The changes include improvements to Title I programs benefiting farmers during the economically challenging times we are currently facing in agriculture.

The Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) will both be offered again in the 2018 Farm Bill. ARC will retain both the *county* and *individual* option. The reason for mentioning this is, because at one time the ARC-*individual* option was under discussion for possibly being eliminated altogether. Moreover, some notable changes to mention for the 2018 Farm Bill include:

“Producers will elect a program per commodity for 2019 and 2020, but then have ANNUAL elections beginning in 2021. This will alleviate much of the pressure in having to make a 5-year decision, as it was for the previous farm bill. Producers can change their program preferences based on more current market conditions. Base acres that have been planted to grass or pasture and planted none of their base acres to program crops for all years of 2009-2017 will effectively be “suspended” from receiving payments, but still maintain their historical base. These base acres will be eligible for the CSP grasslands program however and can receive a payment of \$18/acre. These suspended acres will also be considered “planted” to program crops during this farm bill so it will maintain the base for future legislation. The definition of “grass” is uncertain at this time and will have to be interpreted by the Secretary. RMA (Risk Management Agency) data will be the first source of information to set revenue guarantees and calculate payments. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be required to publish the source of data used to calculate the county yield along with the number and outcome of occurrences in which that yield was reviewed, changed, or determined not to change.”

These are only just a few of the changes that I have listed for this news column. For a more extensive list of changes, and for more general information visit K-State’s Ag Manager website at: <http://agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/first-look-agricultural-improvement-act-2018-farm-bill-2018>.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tyler Husa, Crop Production Agent or Brett Melton, Livestock Production Agent in the Concordia Extension Office by calling (785) 243-8185 or emailing thusa@ksu.edu or bmelton@ksu.edu.

Source: <http://agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/first-look-agricultural-improvement-act-2018-farm-bill-2018>.