USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
2026 - 2030



Overview

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act extends the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program through 2031 and updates components of ARC/PLC for the 2025 through 2031 program years.

The ARC Program is an income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. The PLC Program provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. There are 22 covered commodities: wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long grain rice, medium/short grain rice, temperate japonica rice, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas, soybeans, peanuts, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, crambe, and sesame seed.

How It Works

Published Reference Prices for all covered commodities are provided in the table. The effective reference prices will be calculated to allow upward fluctuation of reference prices in time periods when historic price averages are higher than the established reference price for the covered commodity.

Eligibility

Base acres on farms where all cropland acres have been planted entirely to grass or pasture, including cropland that was idle or fallow, from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2017, will be maintained, but no ARC or PLC payments will be issued for those base acres.

Crop	Reference Price	National Loan Rate
Barley[1]	$5.45 per bu	$2.75 per bu
Chickpeas, Large (Garbanzo bean, Kabuli)	$0.2565 per lb	$0.1540 per lb
Chickpeas, Small (Garbanzo bean, Desi)	$0.2265 per lb	$0.1100 per lb
Corn	$4.10 per bu	$2.42 per bu
Dry Peas	$0.1310 per lb	$.0687 per lb
Grain Sorghum	$4.40 per bu	$2.42 per bu
Lentils	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1430 per lb
Oats	$2.65 per bu	$2.20 per bu
Canola	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Crambe	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Flaxseed	$13.30 per bu	$6.2160 per bu
Mustard	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Rapeseed	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Safflower	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Sesame Seed	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Sunflower	$0.2375 per lb	$0.1110 per lb
Peanuts	$0.315 per lb	$0.1950 per lb
Rice, Long Grain	$0.1690 per lb	$0.0770 per lb
Rice, Medium/Short Grain	$0.1690 per lb	$0.0770 per lb
Rice, Temperate Japonica	$0.2433 per lb	$0.0770 per lb
Soybeans	$10.00 per bu	$6.82 per bu
Wheat	$6.35 per bu	$3.72 per bu
Seed Cotton[2]	$0.4200 per lb	$0.3000 per lb

[1]Barley price is based on the price of "all barley." Previously the price was based on the "feed barley" price.
[2]Seed cotton price is a weighted average of upland cotton and cottonseed prices.
Marketing year for upland cotton is August 1 to July 31.
Marketing year for cottonseed is August 1 to February 28.

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.



Unassigned base acres resulting from the 2018 allocation of generic base acres are ineligible for payment. Payment acres under ARC-CO and PLC are equal to 85% of the specific covered commodity base acres. For ARC-IC, payment acres are 65% of the farm's total covered commodity base acres.

A producer is not eligible to receive ARC/PLC payments if the sum of base acres on ALL farms in which the producer has an interest is 10 acres or less. This 10-acre rule will not apply to a socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran, or limited resource farmer or rancher.

All farm producers with interest in the cropland have the opportunity to make a unanimous program election of either ARC-CO or PLC on a crop-by-crop basis; or ARC-IC for all covered commodity base acres on a farm for each crop year during the election period.

Failure to make a valid election during the election period in 2026 will result in a continuation of the program elected for 2025 for all covered commodities with base acres on the farm, however the farm will be ineligible for payment.

Enrollment

To be eligible for payments, producers must annually enroll their respective share interest of covered commodity base acres.Enrollment will occur on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity base acre crop basis for ARC-CO and PLC. ARC-IC will occur by farm.

Enrolling less than 100% of a covered commodity's base acres on a farm is not allowed. Producers can select a multi-year enrollment option and will remain enrolled through the 2031 program year, provided there are no changes to the election or shares on the contract.

Program Year	Election & Enrollment Period
2026	Sept. 16 – Dec. 11, 2026
2027	Nov. 2, 2026 – March 15, 2027

RMA's SCO and STAX

Election and enrollment can impact eligibility for some forms of crop insurance. Producers are encouraged to contact their agent or visit www.usda.gov/rma for specific program information.

Payment Schedule

Payments for PLC, ARC-CO, and ARC-IC, if triggered, will be issued after October 1 of the year following the end of the marketing year.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

PLC program payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective effective reference price for that commodity. The effective price equals the higher of the national market year average price (MYA) or the national average loan rate for the covered commodity. The effective reference price is the lesser of 115% of the reference price or an amount equal to the greater of the reference price or 88% of the average of MYA prices from the 5 preceding years, excluding the highest and lowest price.

PLC payments are not dependent upon the planting of a covered commodity or planting of the applicable base crop on the farm. PLC payments, if triggered, will be paid on 85% of the farm's base acres of each covered commodity with a PLC election where the farm has been enrolled. Payment will be issued after the end of the marketing year of the covered commodity, but not before October 1 of the year following the program year.

County Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC-CO)

ARC-CO program payments are triggered when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO guarantee for the crop. The actual county revenue and the revenue guarantee are based on county level yield data for the physical location of the base acres on the farm and tract.

ARC-CO payments are not dependent upon the planting of a covered commodity or planting of the applicable base crop on the farm. The ARC-CO benchmark revenue is the 5-year Olympic average MYA price multiplied by the 5-year Olympic average county yield. Benchmark yields and MYA's will be calculated using the 5 years preceding the year prior to the program year. The ARC-CO guarantee is determined by multiplying the ARC-CO benchmark revenue by 90%.

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The ARC-CO actual crop revenue is determined by multiplying the applicable actual county yield by the MYA price for the program year. County yields for the benchmark and actual revenues will be based on the physical location and historical irrigated percentage of base acres on the farm and tract. If a farm has base acres physically located in more than one county or has a historical irrigated percentage for the covered commodity, the benchmark and actual crop revenues will be weighted and summarized based on those aspects to the farm level.

The ARC-CO payment is equal to 85% of the base acres of the covered commodity multiplied by the difference between the county guarantee and the actual county crop revenue for the covered commodity. Payment rates may not exceed 12% of the ARC-CO benchmark revenue. Payment will be issued after the end of the marketing year of the covered commodity, but not before October 1 of the year following the program year.

Individual Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC-IC)

ARC-IC program payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenue for all covered commodities planted on the ARC-IC farm is less than the ARC-IC guarantee for those covered commodities. ARC-IC uses producer's certified yields, rather than county level yields. ARC-IC payments are dependent upon the planting of covered commodities on the farm. A producer's ARC-IC farm is defined as the sum of the producer's interest in all ARC-IC enrolled farms in the state.

The farm's ARC-IC guarantee equals 90% of the ARC-IC farm's weighted benchmark revenue. The ARC-IC benchmark revenue is the 5-year Olympic average revenue, which is the MYA price multiplied by the individual's certified yield for each year in the benchmark period. A benchmark revenue is calculated for each planted covered commodity on the ARC-IC farm in the current year, weighed and summed across all covered commodities on the farm.

The yields and MYA prices used in the benchmark calculation will be the 5 years preceding the year prior to the program year.

The ARC-IC actual crop revenue is determined by multiplying the MYA price by the individual's certified yield, weighted and summed across all covered commodities planted on the farm in the current year.

The ARC-IC payment is equal to 65% of the total base acres on the farm, multiplied by the difference between the calculated individual guaranteed revenue and the actual individual crop revenue summed across all covered commodities planted on the farm.

ARC-IC payment rates may not exceed 12% of the individual weighted benchmark revenue. Payment will be issued after the end of the marketing year of the covered commodity, but not before October 1 of the year following the program year.

Additional Information

For more details on the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs, visit **fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/arc-plc**.



For More Information

For more information on FSA programs, eligibility and related information, visit **fsa.usda.gov**. To locate your local FSA office, visit: **farmers.gov/service-locator**.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details.

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