

2018 Farm Bill ARC and PLC Timeline

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The 2018 Farm Bill, officially known as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, provides safety net support programs for agricultural producers throughout the United States. These programs include the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for Title I covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

One of the fundamental changes in the 2018 Farm Bill is a new election between ARC and PLC for 2019 and 2020 and then annual elections starting in 2021.

1. The first decision facing producers is the program choice between ARC and PLC for the 2019 and 2020 crop years. All producers of the farm must make a unanimous election.
2. After such election, producers must also enroll in the elected program for 2019 and 2020.
3. Producers will have a yearly option of re-electing between ARC and PLC and enrolling in the elected program for each of the crop years from 2021 to 2023.

Table 1. Timeline for ARC and PLC election and enrollment.

	Begin	End
ARC/PLC Election for 2019 and 2020	September 3, 2019	March 15, 2020
ARC/PLC Enrollment for 2019	September 3, 2019	March 15, 2020
ARC/PLC Enrollment for 2020	October 7, 2019	June 30, 2020
ARC/PLC Election and Enrollment for 2021	October 2020	March 15, 2021
ARC/PLC Election and Enrollment for 2022	October 2021	March 15, 2022
ARC/PLC Election and Enrollment for 2023	October 2022	March 15, 2023

In the event that producers of a farm do not make a unanimous election for 2019, then the farm will default to the ARC/PLC election of the crops on the farm established under the 2014 Farm Bill. If the election defaults, producers will not be eligible for payments for the 2019 marketing year. Under the default election, payments will begin for the 2020 marketing year.

FSA does not mandate producers to make re-election in the crop year 2021 or each subsequent crop year. The re-election option is to be exercised solely at the discretion of the producers on the farm and is not a mandatory decision. Annual enrollment of the ARC/PLC program, however, is required.

A series of publications were released by UGA AgEcon Extension discussing in detail about the APC and PLC programs, implications, and guidance on decisions and are available at Georgia Agricultural Policy <https://agecon.uga.edu/extension/policy.html>.

References

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