

June 2009

District A - Pennsylvania FSA

-- To skip directly to the newsletter for your county, move your mouse to the servicing County Office on the list below and left-click.

Armstrong Butler / Beaver / Allegheny Crawford Erie Indiana



Armstrong County USDA Service Center

Armstrong County FSA

124 Armsdale Rd, Ste 106 Kittanning, PA 16201

724-545-1022 phone 724-545-9012 fax www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mark Campbell, Chairman Troy Goldstrohm, Vice-Chairman Ray Claypoole, Member Louella Neiswonger, Advisor

Staff

Edward O. Huston II, CED Lori S. Cogley, PT Merissa Kerr, PT John J. Guthrie, FA Howard Boarts, FA

Office Closings:

July 3 – 4th of July Holiday September 7 – Labor Day Holiday



June 2009 Armstrong FSA News

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

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The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a

visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

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Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

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Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.

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New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

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The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

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Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

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Failed Acreage:

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The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
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- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

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Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a latefiled acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting previsions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

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Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or longestablished, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
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To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
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• Reside in the LAA in which a candidate Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

County	C o m	mittee Elections
County	LAA	Townships
Armstrong	2	Redbank
		Mahoning
		Madison
		Cowanshannock
		Rayburn
		Valley
		Boggs
		Pine
		Wayne

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

Dates to Remember		
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve	
Continuous	Program	
May 4 thru Requests for Referendum for		
May 29, 2009	Soybean Promotion	
June 15, 2009	COC nominations period opens	
Aug. 14, 2009	2009 ACRE election & signup	
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Butler-Beaver-Allegheny County USDA Service Center

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625 Evans City Rd #103 Butler, PA 16001-8704

724-482-4800 ext 2 or 724-775-2369 ext 2 phone 724-482-4826 fax www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Harold W Foertsch, Chair Norman Graham, Vice H George Hartzell, Member Virginia Strouss, Member Elder Vogel Sr, Member Pearl Studebaker, Advisor

Staff

Luke Fritz, CED Mary Jo Geibel, PT Patricia Vogel, PT Amy Walker, PT



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LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Butler	3	Cranberry
		Jackson
		Adams
		Forward
		Middlesex
		Penn
		Clinton
		Jefferson
		Buffalo
		Winfield

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

Long Distance Producers

Unable to visit the Butler Office located on Rt 68 at the Butler Farm Show Grounds? The FSA staff arranges appointments to meet with producers at the Beaver County Conservation District office located off Rt 151 at the wetlands in Independence Township. Alternative locations can be established in Allegheny or other areas in Beaver if needed.

Farm Measurement Service

FSA provides a measurement service on farms using 2008 digital imagery. Individual fields can be measured for accuracy and ease of acreage reporting. The minimum fee per farm is \$23.

Crop Acreage Reporting

Producers are reminded to file their crop acreage reports by the final deadline date to avoid paying late fees. Late Fees are \$46 per farm. All FSA program participants must complete an acreage report.

June 15th – Small Grains, oats, wheat, barley

July 15^{th} – Corn, Soybeans, Hay, vegetables, CREP acreage, etc.

CREP

Enrollment is continuing for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a 10 or 15 year program in which annual rental payments are made to participants. Cost Share funding is available to implement the conservation practices such as fencing, spring development, drain tile, grass planting, etc.

Important Reminder: Haying or Grazing is not permitted on CREP land.

Participants that are already enrolled in CREP are reminded to control the growth of noxious weeds and woody vegetation on acres enrolled in the program.

Failure to maintain the enrolled acres may lead to contract termination and a full refund of all monies received, including penalties and interest, will be required.

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Crawford County USDA Service Center

Crawford County FSA 14699 N Main St Ext Meadville, Pa. 16335

814-336-2127 814-336-4337 www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Loretta Dickey, Chair Craig Hayes, Vice Chair Mark Creacraft, Member

Staff

Susan Hamilton, PT Kay McCartney, PT Allison Pruskowski, PT Alaina Harrison, PT Jessiann Robertson, PT Robert Brown, FLM Robert Fye, FLO Pamela Gillespie, PT Frank Urbanick, FLOT Cara Marafine, FLOT



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- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

County	C o m m	ittee Elections
County	LAA	Townships
Crawford	1	Beaver, Spring, Pine
		Conneaut, Summit
		Summerhill, N Shenango
		Sadsbury, S. Shenango
		W. Fallowfield,
		E. Fallowfield,
		Greenwood,
		W Shenango

LAA(s) up for Election

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at <u>www.fsa.usda.gov/pa</u>.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve
Continuous	Program
May 4 thru	Requests for Referendum for
May 29, 2009	Soybean Promotion
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Aug 14 2000	2009 ACRE election & signup
Aug. 14, 2009	deadline
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election
	nomination forms
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline



June 2009 Erie County FSA News

Erie County USDA Service Center

Erie County FSA 12723 Route 19 Waterford, PA 16441

814-796-6760 ph 814-796-6962 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30 PM

County Committee

Jim Neuburger Paula Meabon Matt Bartlett

Staff

Nancy L. Lewis, CED Dainia Adams, PT Jenny Rose Malinowski, PT Brenda Burdick, PT George Peters, FA Jack Pavkov, FA



Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for iden-

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

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Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Countercyclical Program.

GIS

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Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

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LAA(s) up for Election

County	C o m	mittee Elections
County	LAA	Townships
Erie	1	Springfield, Girard,
		Fairview, Millcreek,
		Harborcreek, North East

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Attention NAP Producers

Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that any disaster (Frost, Excess Rain) damage to NAP crops is to be reported to this office and application filed within 15 days after damage is apparent.

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Continuous	Program	
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Indiana County USDA Service Center

Indiana County FSA 1432 RT 286 HWY E Indiana, PA 15701-1467

724 463-8547 phone 724 463-1939 fax www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Larry Coon - Chairman Ted Kuzemchak – Vice-Chairman R Edwin Nehrig - Member Lois McConaughey -Advisor

Staff

Charles R Glasser, CED Donna Cousins, FLO Krystal McCracken, FLOT Maureen Vilcek, PT Linda Park, PT Melissa Leasure, PT Linda Fisher, PT Mike Gaston, FA



June 2009 Indiana County FSA News

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LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Indiana	1	West Mahoning
		North Mahoning
		South Mahoning
		East Mahoning
		Canoe
		Banks
		Grant
		Montgomery

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Crop Reporting Deadlines:

June 15, 2009 last date to report small grains

July 15, 2009 last date to report corn, soybeans, and other crops

Any prevented planted acres must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.

Notes to Participants

If you are participating in crop insurance, please report your crops to us in a timely fashion so that we have time to load your crop reports into the computer and get a total for you to report to the crop insurance by their deadline. Also, calling ahead to let us know when you are coming will reduce your time in the office.

Indiana County is still accepting offers for continuous conservation reserve sign-up (CREP). Cropland that meets the cropping history and eligibility requirements may be enrolled as well as land adjacent to bodies of water or streams which may be established as riparian buffer areas.

While we are still processing payments from the office, we no longer mail the payment statements from here. Please contact us if your bank account information changes in any way.

No program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until: all required forms for the specific situation are provided and necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made. After 2009, an operating plan will not be required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents on file. Failure to timely notify the County Office of any changes that affect Adjusted Gross Income certification or the actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, or foreign person determinations may adversely affect payment eligibility. Entities earning program benefits that are subject to limitation must provide the names, addresses, and TIN's of entities' members to COC.

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