

September 2014



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Get Your Farm Loan Questions Answered](#)
- [Joint Financing Farm Ownership](#)
- [Microloan Program](#)
- [Youth Loans](#)
- [Enrollment for New Dairy Farm Risk Management Program to Begin Sept. 2](#)
- [Slate of Nominees Finalized](#)

Belmont/Monroe County FSA Updates

Belmont/Monroe County FSA Office

1119 E Main St, Ste 1
Barnesville, OH 43713-9102

Phone: 740-425-2300
Toll Free from 740 area code:
800-818-7645
Fax: 855-832-5173

County Executive Director:
Christy Collins

Program Technician:
Tina Pittman

Farm Loan Managers:
Belmont County:
Sam Raber
Phone: 330-339-5585

Monroe County:
David Drake
Phone: 740-454-2824

County Committee:
Charles Schaefer, Chair
Dale Dietrich, Vice Chair
Stanley Borovich
Clayton Farnsworth

Get Your Farm Loan Questions Answered

We are excited to offer the opportunity for you to meet with Sam Raber, a Farm Loan Manager on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. He will try to be here from 8:00 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. To be sure he sets aside some time for you, we encourage you to call him and make an appointment at 330-339-5585. In September he plans to be here September 10 and 24.

Joint Financing Farm Ownership

Beginning farmers may choose to participate in a joint financing arrangement. With this arrangement, FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50% or more. The applicant will use funds from the joint financing arrangement along with FSA funds for any authorized Farm Ownership purpose. The interest rate is 2 percent less than the direct Farm Ownership rate but not lower than 2.5 percent. The term of the loan will not exceed 40 years of the useful life of the security.

Stephen Wharton
Louella Urbanek, Advisor

**Next County Committee
Meeting: October 20 at 9:00
a.m. at our office**

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

In addition to microloans, FSA offers several farm loan programs that provide funding to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or can be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the Belmont/Monroe county FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official. The Microloan program Fact Sheet can be [found here](#).

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

In addition to microloans, FSA offers several farm loan programs that provide funding to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or can be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the Belmont/Monroe county FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official. The Microloan program Fact Sheet can be [found here](#).

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law

- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA's Youth loan program, contact your Belmont/Monroe county FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official or view the youth loan fact sheet [here](#).

Enrollment for New Dairy Farm Risk Management Program to Begin Sept. 2

Starting Sept. 2, 2014, farmers can enroll in the new dairy Margin Protection Program. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also launched a new Web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the Margin Protection Program that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections.

The Margin Protection Program, which replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract program, gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment begins Sept. 2 and ends on Nov. 28, 2014, for 2014 and 2015. Participating farmers must remain in the program through 2018 and pay a minimum \$100 administrative fee each year. Producers have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year.

Dairy operations enrolling in the new program must comply with conservation compliance provisions and cannot participate in the Livestock Gross Margin dairy insurance program. Farmers already participating in the Livestock Gross Margin program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but the new margin program will only begin once their Livestock Gross Margin coverage has ended.

The 2014 Farm Bill also established the Dairy Product Donation Program. The program authorizes USDA to purchase and donate dairy products to nonprofit organizations that provide nutrition assistance to low-income families. Purchases only occur during periods of low dairy margins. Dairy operators do not need to enroll to benefit from the Dairy Product Donation Program.

Visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets, or stop by a local FSA office to learn more about the Margin Protection Program or the Dairy Product Donation Program.

Staff will be at training September 3 and 4 to learn about the program, so please wait until next week to call and make an appointment or to ask questions.

Slate of Nominees Finalized

The County FSA Committee finalized the slate of nominees for the upcoming FSA elections at their meeting on August 25. Barbara Ackerman is the only person for which a valid nomination was received, so she will be the only name on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed around November 3. The area up for election includes Monroe County townships of Seneca, Summit, Center, Franklin and Wayne. Write-in candidates must indicate they are willing to serve on the Committee. Terms are for three years and begin January 1, 2015.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of

the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).