

May 20, 2015



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

- [Public Notice For Farm Service Agency Elections](#)
- [FSA Microloans Available up to \\$50,000](#)
- [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#)

Belmont/Monroe County FSA Updates

Belmont/Monroe County Public Notice For Farm Service Agency FSA Office Elections

**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 Technicians:
Tina Pittman
Karri Kovalick, Temporary

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

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

The County FSA Committee election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 and 2 will be held this year on December 7, 2015. Eligible voters have the right to nominate the candidate(s) of their choice. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Belmont/Monroe County FSA Office or from the website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/index>. Each form submitted must be:

- limited to 1 nominee
- signed by the nominee, indicating willingness to serve, if elected
- postmarked or delivered to the County FSA Office no later than August 3, 2015

Any nominee should be currently engaged in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. The election this year is for LAA 1, which includes Monroe County townships of Malaga, Sunsbury, Switzerland, Adams and Salem. Elections will also be held in LAA 2 which includes the Monroe County townships of Bethel, Washington, Benton, Perry, Green, Ohio, Lee and Jackson.

A producer is eligible to be a County FSA Committee member if the producer lives in the LAA up for election and is an eligible voter. **COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY NOT HOLD POSITIONS IN CERTAIN FARM AND COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS IF THESE POSITIONS POSE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH FSA DUTIES.** These positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, and positions on boards or executive committees. Additional information of eligibility to hold office may be obtained at the County FSA Office.

County Committee:

Dale Dietrich, Chair
Stephen Wharton, Vice Chair
Barbara Ackerman
Stanley Borovich
Charles Schaefer
Louella Urbanek, Advisor

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- informing farmers and ranchers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs
- keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions
- recommending needed changes in farm programs
- participating in county meetings as necessary
- performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

Next County Committee Meeting: June 1, 2015

In determining the boundaries of the LAA's, County Committees must consider several factors, including number of farms in each LAA, types of farming in each area, local political subdivisions, fair representation of socially disadvantaged producers, and geographical conditions such as soil types, crop diversity, etc.

The local administrative areas for the Belmont/Monroe County Committee Elections are as follows:

LAA 1: Monroe County townships of Malaga, Sunsbury, Switzerland, Adams and Salem

LAA 2: Monroe County townships of Green, Ohio, Lee, Jackson, Perry, Benton, Washington and Bethel

LAA 3: Monroe County townships of Seneca, Summit, Center, Wayne and Franklin

LAA 4: Belmont County townships of Warren, Flushing, Kirkwood, Union, Wheeling, Richland, Colerain, Pease and Pultney

LAA 5: Goshen, Smith, Mead, Somerset, Wayne, Washington and York.

For more information about FSA elections and other programs, please contact the Belmont/Monroe FSA office at 740-425-2300 or toll free from the 740 area code at 800-818-7645. More information is also available on FSA's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA Microloans Available up to \$50,000

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers that the FSA borrowing limit for microloans increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Microloans offer borrowers simplified lending with less paperwork.

The microloan change allows beginning, small and mid-sized farmers to access an additional \$15,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay.

To complement the microloan program additional changes to FSA eligibility requirements will enhance beginning farmers access to land, a key barrier to entry level producers. FSA policies related to farm experience have changed so that other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm ownership loan eligibility. Operation or management of non-farm businesses, leadership positions while serving in the military or advanced education in an agricultural field will now count towards the experience applicants need to show when applying for farm ownership loans.

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$50,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as

fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses.

Individuals interested in applying for a FSA [microloan](#) or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact one of the Farm Loan employees listed on the left side of this bulletin.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year. The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

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).