



NEWSLETTER



Clermont County FSA Office

1000 Locust St
PO Box 38
Owensville, OH
45160-0038

513-732-2181 phone
513-732-6984 fax

Hours

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

August 2012

County Office Staff
Charlotte Schmachtenberger,
County Executive Director

Frankie Stith-Scott,
Farm Loan Manager

Sandy Wright
Katrina Allen,
Program Technicians

Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

Producers Must Report Crop Losses to FSA

Producers must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent, this includes crops covered by crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 - "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program."

USDA Extends Emergency Grazing Through Nov. 30th

FSA will allow all Ohio farmers to continue emergency grazing on CRP land through **Nov. 30, 2012**, without incurring an additional CRP rental payment reduction. The period normally allowed for emergency grazing lasts through Sept. 30.

The extension of emergency grazing on CRP acres does not apply to these practices: CP8A – Grass Waterway-Non-easement; CP23 – Wetland Restoration; CP23A – Wetland Restoration-Non-Floodplain; CP27 – Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland; and CP28 – Farmable Wetlands Pilot Buffer.

Under emergency grazing at least twenty-five percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields must be left ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than seventy-five percent of the stocking rate as determined by NRCS. CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer.

Eligible producers who are interested in grazing CRP under the emergency authorization, and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval from their local FSA office and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS).

Prior to implementation of emergency grazing, a conservation plan must be developed that complies with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. This plan must be completed by NRCS. If potential negative impacts of grazing on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat are identified, it is not likely the land would be approved for these activities.

Producers must notify their local FSA office and file a request and receive approval before starting the emergency grazing activity.

Juan M. Garcia Named Farm Service Agency Administrator

Juan M. Garcia has been appointed as the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator, effective July 15, 2012. Garcia previously served as deputy administrator for Farm Programs where he managed all FSA programs under the Production Emergencies and Compliance Division, Conservation and Environmental Programs Division, and Price Support Division.

Garcia served as state executive director for Texas and as the agricultural program manager (APM) for the Farm Service Agency in Texas. Prior to his selection as the APM, Garcia worked as a district director and served earlier in his career as county executive director. During his 35-year career with

USDA, Garcia has received numerous honors and is a three-time recipient of the prestigious FSA Administrator's Award for Service to Agriculture.

A native of Lyford, Texas, Garcia was raised on his family's 500-acre farm. Garcia received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Texas A&I in Kingsville (now Texas A&M University-Kingsville).



Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With the high temperatures this summer, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact your local FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

June MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of June. USDA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations.

The MILC payment trigger price of \$16.94 is adjusted upward when the National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for a month is greater than \$7.35 per cwt. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service releases the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost monthly. Using this information, the MILC payment trigger for the month of June has been adjusted to \$21.53, for a final MILC payment rate of \$1.3677491 per hundredweight.

For more information about the MILC program, please visit your local FSA office or go online to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/milc2011.pdf.

Clermont County Farm Service Agency Provides Free Online News Service

Keeping up with the times is now a little easier using the Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) GovDelivery system. GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information. Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, participants can choose to receive federal farm program information by topic, state and/or county.

"Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive

updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest," stated Charlotte Schmachtenberger, FSA Executive Director for Clermont County.

Anyone can sign-up for the GovDelivery system to receive free USDA information. The GovDelivery system allows farmers, bankers, crop insurance agents, practically anyone interested in receiving program updates and reminders within USDA agencies to sign-up to receive information electronically. FSA is utilizing GovDelivery to electronically provide agency news updates and program reminders directly to the customer's inbox, Smartphone and through text messaging.

"Customers who do not wish to use the GovDelivery system will still receive some information in the mail, however it will be severely reduced," said Schmachtenberger. FSA will rely on free local radio and newspaper media to get information out.

"With so much discussion about the Farm Bill this year, it will be important for FSA to communicate with our customers about new program announcements or if legislation has extended our current programs," added Schmachtenberger.

Farmers can visit their local FSA office and register for free email updates or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe and follow the online options. Participants will be asked to provide their email addresses and cell phone numbers.

For more information contact the Clermont County FSA office at 513-732-2181.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Highly Erodible Land Initiative Sign-Up

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced that continuous sign-up for the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Initiative under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) started on July 23, 2012. Ohio received a total allocation of **24,300 acres** to enroll in the HEL CRP program. Offers will be accepted until either the state acreage allocation limit is reached or September 30, 2012, whichever occurs first.

"CRP is a voluntary program that has protected environmentally sensitive land for more than 25 years,"

said CED Schmachtenberger. "This initiative will accept offers with an erosion rate of at least 20 tons per acre per year for new cropland or CRP acres that expire on September 30, 2012; however, existing grass stands that are not expiring CRP will not be considered eligible," she said.

Producers can stop by their local FSA office to determine if their land qualifies for the Highly Erodible Land Initiative and to receive additional location-specific details.

Landowners enrolled in CRP receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Incentive payments are not authorized under this initiative.

New land contracts approved during this continuous sign-up initiative will become effective the first day of the month following the month of approval and are valid for 10 years.

CRP contracts set to expire on September 30, 2012, may be offered for consideration and approved contracts will become effective October 1, 2012, and are also valid for 10 years.

For more information, please contact your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	1.875%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Electronic Services Available

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <https://identitymanager.eems.usda.gov/registration/index.aspx> and then click on "Register for a Level 2 Account" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home> and then click on the "Login" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "I Agree" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and Password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccc931>.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

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These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	Deadline to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2012.
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Sept. 30	HEL Initiative sign-up concludes.
Oct. 8	Columbus Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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