



# Crawford County News

November 2008

## Crawford County USDA Service Center

Crawford County FSA  
3115 SR 98  
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820  
419-562-8936 (phone)  
419-562-8815(fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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

**County Committee**  
Allen Schimpf, Chairman  
Terry Corney, Vice Chair  
Donovan Scott, Member  
Trudy Ruehle, Advisor

County Committee  
meets on the second  
Tuesday of the Month at  
8:30 Am

**Staff**  
Sharon Stump, PT  
Heather Hiler, PT  
Gail Walter, PT  
Kate Brause, PT  
Randy Hiler, FR  
Ray Greenick, FR  
Jim Greve, CED



## Extending the 2008 DCP Sign-Up Deadline for Farms with 10.0 or Less Base Acres

On October 13, 2008 H.R. 6849 was enacted and provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less covered commodities not previously enrolled. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less **have until November 26, 2008** to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. H.R. 6849 **does not extend** the DCP sign-up deadline for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

With the extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less to Nov. 26, 2008, late filed crop acreage report requirement and fees will be waived on farms with 10.0 base acres or less if filed **by COB, December 1, 2008**. This **does not waive** late filed crop acreage report requirements or fees for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

Visit your local FSA office, if you are interested in signing-up.

## SURE Online Calculator

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. For your convenience, FSA has placed a SURE calculator on its Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

The calculator and instructions can be easily downloaded. Once the download is made, you will be able to calculate your estimated SURE Guarantee, estimated Expected Revenue, estimated Farm Revenue and estimated SURE payment.

**The calculator is a tool to help with calculations for SURE, it is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information.**

By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is impor-

tant to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

**Note, FSA reminds users that the calculator and instructions are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way provides exact FSA payments under SURE.**

## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1st.

The candidates in this year's election are: Allen Schimpf, Donald Reer and Sandra Stockmaster have been nominated in LAA 1, Crawford County, to serve as a committee member. Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

- Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:
1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
  2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
  3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## USDA Farm Service Agency's Administrator Declares Physical Loss in Eight Ohio Counties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Administrator Teresa Lasseter has declared Emergency Physical Loss loans will be available in eight Ohio counties. The following counties were designated as primary counties, due to excessive rains, flooding, flash flooding, hail, frost, lightning, high winds and tornadoes that occurred Feb. 1 through July 31, 2008. Those counties include: Adams, Allen, Brown, Butler, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton and Hancock counties.

Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are: Auglaize, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Scioto, Seneca, Van Wert, Warren, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties.

All counties listed above were designated **on October 2, 2008**, making FSA Emergency Physical Loss loans available to eligible applicants with qualifying severe physical losses in the primary and contiguous counties, provided eligibility requirements are met. This approval is limited to applicants who suffered severe physical losses only. To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.



Interested farmers should contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.375%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.250%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.500%

## NAP Coverage Closing Date is Dec. 1

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late defining the 2009 risk management NAP Coverage requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage purchase date for 2009 only. As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- The date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, rye, barley, speltz, apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for all hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap, aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turfgrass sod and watercress in **Ohio, is December 1, 2008**. For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

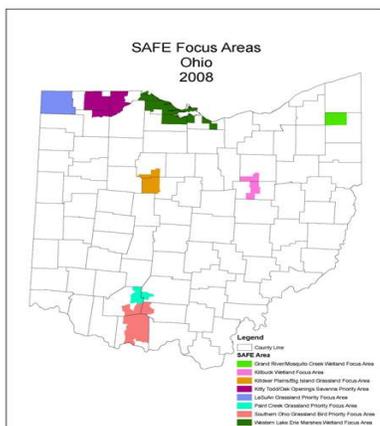
Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

## NEW CRP PRACTICE IN OHIO

### Sign-up begins November 10, 2008 for the CRP State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Ohio landowners and operators in designated geographical areas will have the opportunity to offer cropland for enrollment in a new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program practice entitled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38. USDA's FSA will conduct sign-up for SAFE on a continuous (ongoing) basis **beginning November 10, 2008**, in all or portions of the following counties: Adams, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Lucas, Marion, Ottawa, Pike, Ross, Sandusky, Trumbull, Wayne, Williams, and Wyandot. See the map below to show where each SAFE practice is located.



SAFE is a set of wildlife management practices specifically developed by conservation organizations and agencies located within Ohio to establish and restore habitats to support *declining* populations of wildlife and ecosystems in priority focus areas. By developing SAFE projects, these organizations and their partners enhance the effectiveness of CRP by helping to establish higher quality habitat and healthier ecosystems for species of

concern and other wildlife right here in Ohio.

Offers for enrollment in SAFE practices may be made at any of the above FSA County offices in which the land is located. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers under this practice are not subject to competitive bidding; however, Ohio is limited to enrollment of no more than 11,600 acres on a first come, first served basis. SAFE contracts are 10-15 years in duration.

CP38 practices offered in most of the designated SAFE priority focus areas include shallow water areas for wildlife, rare and declining habitat practices- wetland complex, tall grass prairie, and oak savanna, and the opportunity for whole field enrollment for establishment of permanent native grasses. All CP38 practices receive a Signing Incentive Payment equal to \$100 per acre, **50%** cost share assistance for eligible practice establishment costs, a Practice Incentive Payment equal to **40%** of eligible establishment costs, and annual rental payments. Annual rental payments are calculated using updated, higher soil rental rates equivalent to cash rent rates. Other financial assistance may be available for certain practices through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Defense Fund.

In addition to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel, wildlife biologists from Pheasants Forever, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are available to provide technical assistance to interested landowners and farm operators.

For more information on Ohio's SAFE project, visit your local FSA Service Center Office or go online to read the factsheet at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/oh\\_safe\\_factsheet\\_sept\\_2008.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/oh_safe_factsheet_sept_2008.pdf). Prior to the sign-up period, producers may file a Record of Inquiry form at their local FSA office to express their interest in SAFE.

## Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

### Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

## Online Services

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: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" 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/mainservlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" 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.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments. All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!

## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 3	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 10	SAFE Sign-up begins in designated areas.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Dec. 1	<b>Application deadline</b> for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops.
Dec. 1	<b>Last day</b> to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Dec 8	COC Election ballots counted.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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