

May 2009

Crawford County
USDA Service Center

2009 FSA County Committee Elections

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

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

County Committee
Terry Corney
Donovan Scott
Allen Schimpf
Trudy Ruehle

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

Staff
Heather Hiler, PT
Gail Walter, PT
Kate Brause, PT
Charma Schifer, PT
Chrystal McCown
Randy Hiler, FR
Ray Greenick, FR
Jim Greve, CED



The Crawford County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Crawford County Committee. This year LAA-3 will be having an election. LAA-3 is comprised of the following townships: Bucyrus, Dallas, Whetstone, Jefferson, Polk and Jackson. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Crawford County FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Ohio FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/oh>. The form is located under the "I Want To" section.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate.

Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the Crawford County Committee, Jim Greve, County Executive Director at (419)562-8936 or stop in the office located at 3115 SR 98 Bucyrus, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 3, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 6th and must be returned by December 7, 2009. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2010.

Request for Soybean Referendum May 4 – May 29

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it is offering soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, eligible producers may obtain the Form, *LS-51-1: Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum* from their local FSA office either in person, by mail or by facsimile. Forms may also be obtained on the AMS website at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketingPrograms> and then click on the "Request a Soybean Referendum form" link. **Note:** Form *LS-51-1* will only be available on the AMS website between the dates of **May 4, 2009 through May 29, 2009**.

The deadline for returning the referendum request form is May 29, 2009. USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one state. For more information, contact the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C.20250-0251.

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.

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.

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who suffered crop losses in the 2008 crop year now have an additional opportunity to buy eligibility for FSA disaster assistance. Producers now have **until May 18, 2009** to pay a buy-in fee to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

The buy-in is for producers who did not previously obtain statutorily required crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008. The buy-in fee **does not provide** producers with crop insurance or NAP for the 2008 crop year; it only allows eligibility for the 2008-above listed crop disaster assistance programs.

For more information about these programs, contact your local FSA office. A 2008 Crop Year Buy-in for Disaster Assistance Programs factsheet is also available at:

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

Crawford County Executive Director, Jim Greve, reminds interested applicants that FSA offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Extensions of CRP Contracts Expiring in 2009

If you are enrolled in CRP and your contract is set to expire on September 30, 2009, you may be eligible to extend your contract end date and remain in CRP for another 3 or 5 years. This is a rare opportunity to be able to keep whole field CRP practices under contract longer.

CRP participants eligible for the CRP contract extension will receive a letter from the local FSA office informing them of the opportunity to extend their expiring contract soon. If your contract expires this year and you haven't received a letter by May 29th notifying you of the status of your contract, please contact your local FSA office.

Eligible participants may extend all or a portion of their CRP contract by filing a CRP-1F Addendum and obtaining a modified conservation plan between May 18th and June 30th. Letters will designate the length of your contract extension as either 3 or 5 years. Others will be notified their contract is expiring this year and to contact the FSA office to get base acres reinstated or of the opportunity to enroll all or a portion of expiring CRP acres into Continuous CRP, SAFE or other USDA conservation programs.

Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2008 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be May 31, 2009.**

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

The measurement service rates will apply to, but not limited to the following services: measuring crops after planting; staking and referencing acreages to be planted; measuring acreage that has been adjusted; verifying crops, disaster acreage and late-filed fees; re-measuring any acreage that had been measured previously; measuring or sampling farm-stored commodities. Also, Price Support loans and LDP's will be charged on a per farm basis.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The 2008 Farm Bill includes the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) which provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses due to a natural disaster, on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

Livestock producers who have incurred eligible 2008 and/or 2009 eligible livestock death losses because of eligible adverse weather events should begin to compile their livestock death loss documentation.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Losses because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, are eligible for LIP.

To be eligible for assistance under LIP, each livestock producer **must** provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths. Adequate documentation must be provided that proves the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

For more information about the LIP, contact your local FSA office.

Reporting Acreage Crop

Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, Jim Greve, Crawford County Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application*, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application*. "Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed," said Greve.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office, and producers should file a Notice of Loss Application. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, 2009, 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, 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.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details on specific crops are available at your local FSA office.

Dates to Remember

May 18	Deadline to pay a buy-in fee to become eligible for the SURE, ELAP, and (TAP) programs.
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 29	Soybean Request for Referendum ends today.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2008 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 3	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 14	Sign-up Deadline for DCP and ACRE Programs.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous CRP.

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

Deadline Extended For DCP and ACRE Programs

USDA has extended the sign-up deadline **from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009**, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or in DCP.

Crawford County producers may now elect and enroll farms into ACRE. ***The CCC-509 ACRE Irrevocable election form must be signed by all land owners and operators associated with the farm. Submitted forms commits the farm to the ACRE program through 2012.*** The election form is only filed one time and is irrevocable after the filing deadline. Once the election is complete and approved by the COC, the producer must annually enroll the farm on form CCC-509. ACRE is a crop revenue based program and does not require crop insurance to participate. Producers electing ACRE will have their DCP direct payment reduced by 20% and will not be eligible for counter cyclical payments on the farms enrolled. In addition the market loan rate is reduced by 30% on participating farms. Please contact our office for additional program policy concerning ACRE.

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