



NEWSLETTER



Crawford County FSA Office

3115 State Route 98
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

419-562-8936 phone
419-562-8815 fax

Hours

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

September 2011

County Office Staff

Jim Greve,
County Executive
Director

John Varner,
Farm Loan Manager

Crystal McCown,
Kate Brause,
Heather Hiler,
Gail Walter,
Monica Finney, Temp
Nancy Kochel, Temp
Program Technicians

Randy Hiler,
Ray Greenick,
Field Reporters

Allen Schimpf,
Steve Miller,
Rick Niese,
County Committee

Trudy Ruehle,
Minority Advisor

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

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Livestock Producers Reminded of FSA's 2011 Livestock Disaster Program Deadline

Eligible producers who lose livestock due to adverse weather, such as hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, on or after January 1, 2011, and before October 1, 2011, can sign-up for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Livestock losses had to occur no later than 60 days after the adverse weather event, but prior to October 1, 2011. For livestock losses that occur in calendar year 2011, producers will have 30 days after the death to file a notice of loss to FSA, but not later than October 31, 2011 to apply for payment.

Adequate documentation must prove 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. If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties, who are not affiliated with the farming operation, may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available.

LIP indemnity payments will be based on 75 percent of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA.

Producers who have questions regarding livestock disaster assistance program eligibility and the application process should contact the Crawford County FSA office at 419-562-8936 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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!

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.



For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmcase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting the website or by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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 FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2012 NAP coverage on Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz **is Sept. 30, 2011** in Ohio.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Sept. 30, 2011. 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. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact the Crawford County FSA office.

CRP Annual Payments

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Staff wants to be certain CRP annual payments are correctly and timely made. Please notify your local FSA office if: your mailing address has changed; payee ID numbers have changed; or participant shares have changed. If you have established a trust agreement as a result of an estate planning process, or recently formed an entity (partnership, corporation, LLC, etc.) and you are enrolled in CRP, please report these changes as soon as possible to ensure proper payments are made. The easiest way to tell if the correct person(s) are being paid is to review the names and payment shares on the CRP-1 contract.

FSA Non-Insured Assistance Program Reporting Requirements Reminder

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that they must meet the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) requirements prior to receiving program benefits.

It is important that producers report NAP crop losses within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses to crops need to be reported after each occurrence of damage and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

NAP coverage is only available for crops where coverage is not available under the Federal Crop

Insurance Program. The NAP program is designed to cover catastrophic losses due to damaging weather conditions. The program covers losses in excess of a 50 percent loss of the producer's established yield. Qualifying losses eligible for payment are paid at 55 percent of the established value of the crop.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to find out what forms of production evidence are acceptable and to obtain additional information regarding NAP. Failure to comply with the requirements mentioned above could result in a loss or reduction in program benefits.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount, not to exceed \$250,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities in Ohio are eligible for FSFL:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Honey;
- Renewable biomass; and
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program,

contact the Crawford County FSA office or visit the FSA Price Support website at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Informs Producers of SURE Eligibility on 2011 and 2012 Crops

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to inform eligible producers which may and may not suffer loss because of disaster events occurring on or before September 30, 2011, about how the 2008 Farm Bill provisions that authorized SURE will be administered for 2011 and 2012 crops.

The SURE Program was authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) to provide assistance to producers suffering crop losses because of disasters on or before September 30, 2011. To receive SURE payments; an eligible producer on a SURE farm must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss is defined as a loss of 10 percent or more on at least 1 crop of economic significance because of disaster on a farm that is either:

- located in a disaster county; or
- if not located in any disaster county or county contiguous to such a county, but has an overall loss greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm) because of disaster.

At the time of filing the 2011 or 2012 SURE application for payment, the producer will be required to identify and certify the crop of economic significance on the SURE farm that suffered the 10 percent loss because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011.

Crops are **not** required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011, to maintain eligibility for SURE.

The determination of whether a producer's certification of crop loss is because of a disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011, FSA will review the crop's planting and growing period, asserted disaster event, and any other pertinent information that may be relevant or available.

For more information about the SURE program, visit the Crawford County FSA office or the website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.875%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

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

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 5	Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Sept. 16	Deadline to sign-up for BCAP in NE Ohio.
Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Sept. 30	Deadline to file a notice of loss and an application for payment for ELAP, LFP and LIP programs for 2011.
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 4	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 20	Last day to apply for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberrries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey and maple syrup.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”