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.

October 2012

County Office Staff
Heather Hiler,
Acting County Executive Director

John Varner,
Farm Loan Manager
Pam Sparks,
Farm Loan Officer

Heather Hiler,
Gail Walter,
Kate Brause,
Monica Finney, Temp Program Technicians

Randy Hiler,
Field Reporter

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

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec. 3, 2012.

2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. The new acreage reporting date is Dec. 15, 2012. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please call the Crawford County FSA office for an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

USDA Announces Disaster Assistance Sign-Up For 2011 Crop Losses

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning Oct. 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and producers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011. All eligible farmers and producers must sign-up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Crawford County FSA office at (419)562-8936 or visit the website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

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.

FSA Reminds Producers That All Counties in Ohio Were Designated as Primary or Contiguous Natural Disaster Areas

The Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers about the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial designation on Sept. 5, 2012. All of Ohio's counties were designated as primary or contiguous agricultural natural disaster areas due to drought and excessive heat that occurred from February 1, 2012 and continuing.

This gives all qualified farm operators in the designated areas the opportunity to file an application for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part 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.

USDA FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. Other programs available to assist farmers include the Emergency Conservation Program and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

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

Farm Loan Program Limits

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.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to $300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of $1,302,000 starting on October 1, 2012. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness $1,602,000.

For detailed information, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Changes to IRS Forms 1099-G and 1099-Misc for Calendar Year 2012

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G were issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, the 1099-G reporting will change.

IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers) will only be issued to producers whose reportable payments total $600 or more for the calendar year. Additionally, if the producer has at least $600 in reportable payments received from multiple FSA offices, only one Form 1099-G will be issued. Producers subject to voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding will receive the appropriate IRS form, even if combined payments are less than $600.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Any producer who receives less than $600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

For more information regarding IRS reporting changes, please contact the Crawford County FSA office at 419-562-8936.

August MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of August. 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 August has been adjusted to $23.08, for a final MILC payment rate of $1.4760653 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.

2012 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims **between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least $1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to $160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the claims process.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov
Phone: 1-888-508-4429
Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.000%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

[Name] County FSA Office
Address Line 2
Address Line 3

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5000.

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 8	Columbus Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Oct. 22	Sign-up Begins for the 2011 SURE Program.
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Nov. 20	**Last day to apply** for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey and maple syrup.
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Dec. 3	**Last day** to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 15	**Deadline** to report the 2013 Fall Seeded Crops for fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

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

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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."