



NEWSLETTER



Crawford County FSA Office

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

April/May 2013

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Director

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

2013 DCP & ACRE Enrollment Continues

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE.

For the 2013 crop year, 100% of the Direct Payment will be issued to farm producers in October 2013. All payments under the DCP are subject to the availability of funds and compliance with all laws including those that may be passed after a DCP Contract is signed. This may include a reduction in the amount of Direct Payments due to any sequester order required by legislation. FSA will notify producers of any required percentage reduction of DCP payments.

Low Interest Storage Loans

One of the great things about Agriculture is money continues to be re-invested. Why not invest and increase your storage capacity to improve your position in the marketplace? FSA offers low interest financing for commodity storage structures to all participants with a need for additional storage. In addition to grain bins and silage storage, flat storage for hay is now an eligible storage structure to place under loan. Repairs, legs, drying equipment are also eligible for loan. The maximum principal amount for loan is 85% of total cost up to \$500,000. Loan terms are 7, 10 or 12 years based on the loan amount. Interest rates vary by month and are based on the approval month: April 2013 rates are 1.375% for 7 years, 2.000% for 10 years and 2.250% for 12 year term loans. All loans must be approved before material acquisition, any site preparation or construction can begin. Among the requirements is a useful life of at least 15 years for all structures. Most of the time a mortgage is not required. Contact FSA to start planning for your best option.

Loan & LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2012 Crop Year Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans and Sunflower seed will be May 31, 2013.

Ohio Farm Service Agency Seeks Crop Loss Adjusters

The USDA Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking qualified individuals with knowledge of field crops and specialty crops interested in becoming Independent Crop Loss Adjustment Contractors for FSA.

FSA administers the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) which provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by drought, flood, hurricane, or other natural disasters.

FSA utilizes crop loss adjusters when eligible producers experience crop losses and planting prevented by disasters. Contracted crop loss adjusters will be responsible for completing field inspections, reading maps and aerial photos, measuring fields and assessing damage or loss. The crop loss adjuster will perform fact-finding (regarding crop damage), record information and transmit loss information to accurately assess indemnity.

Interested individuals should submit a resume and a brief written summary of their agricultural background and mail the information to the address listed below. Packages must be received **by COB on May 1, 2013.**

**Ohio FSA State Office
Attn: Matt Kleski
200 North High Street, Room 540
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

NOTE: Selected individuals must have their own transportation and be willing to travel anywhere in Ohio to work crop loss claims. Travel expenses are reimbursable. Further training will be provided to crop loss adjusters once a selection has been made.



A detailed job description for the Independent Crop Loss Adjustment Contractors position is available on the Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. For more information or questions about the Independent Crop Loss Adjustment Contractors position, contact Matt Kleski at the Ohio Farm Service Agency State Office at 614-255-2446.

45th CRP General Sign-Up Runs May 20 through June 14

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 320,000 acres are enrolled in CRP in Ohio. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on approximately 55,000 acres of CRP in Ohio are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

More information about the CRP general sign-up [can be found here](#) or by contacting the Crawford County FSA.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has extended the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. **All claims must now be filed by May 1, 2013.**

Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices in the past from the USDA have additional time to file a

claim in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness. USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and to file their claim packages on or before May 1, 2013.

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

All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to visit the website at any time or to contact the call center telephone number Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may be emailed or faxed.

Once a claim is submitted to the Claims Administrator, the Claims Administrator will determine if it is timely and complete. If it is, the claim will move to the Claims Adjudicator for a determination on the merits of the claim. USDA may submit evidence to the Claims Adjudicator regarding the claim. If a claim is deemed incomplete, a claimant will be notified by the Claims Administrator and given the opportunity to provide additional information within a certain timeframe. Claimants may check the status of their claims on the claims website.

- Website: www.farmerclaims.gov
- Phone: 1-888-508-4429
- Fax: (855) 626-8343
- Email: claims@hwfr.org
- Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Independent 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.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP acres according to the Conservation Plan of Operations. Weed control is being more closely monitored than perhaps years past to ensure the integrity of the Conservation Reserve Program. All CRP maintenance activities must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season is March 1 through July 15 for Ohio.

Spot treatment of the acreage to control noxious and invasive species may be allowed during the primary nesting season if prior approval is received from the COC. Spot treatment includes spot spraying and/or mowing and should be limited to the immediate area of infestation. Prohibited activities include:

- * Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control
- * Periodic mowing & for cosmetic purposes

Spot treatment should be conducted in the method that results in the least damage to the nesting wildlife and habitat. Noncompliance of these restrictions for spot treatment could result in payment reductions and/or termination of the CRP contract. All CRP acreage is subject to spot check.

Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting quickly approaching, the Crawford Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

"It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction," said Crawford Executive Director, Trevor Kerr. "This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments if applicable."

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. To be eligible for crop disaster programs in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting the Crawford County FSA office at 419-562-8936.

Disaster Assistance

Producers are encouraged to visit www.disasterassistance.gov for assistance and resources available from a variety of federal agencies.

2013 Crop Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. 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. The final date to timely submit crop acreage reports is **July 15, 2013.**

Farming Changes

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report any change in a farming operation so that records can be kept current and accurate. Changes include, but are not limited to, farm ownership, farm operator, address, tax identification number, and agricultural use.

Producers may complete AD-2047 to request records changes and provide an email address to receive electronic newsletters. Due to budget constraints the local FSA office is unable to mail paper newsletters.

Before a farm operator change may be made, the landowner must provide the FSA office with a written statement or copy of a cash lease or verbal verification. It is also very important that FSA is notified of ownership, address, and banking or entity changes promptly.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

What is the U.S. Drought Monitor?

The U.S. Drought Monitor website is:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced in partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Drought Monitor is a synthesis of multiple indices and impacts that represents a consensus of federal and academic scientists. This website includes various forecasts from stream flow to soil moisture in addition to a variety of resources.

MILC Program Start Month

Each year producers participating in the MILC, (Milk Income Loss Contract), program can change the start month. If the dairy operation elects never to change the selected start month, the start month will remain the same throughout the MILC contract's duration. The contract year runs October to October.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.500%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.250%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
May 1	Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers claims deadline to file a claims packet.
May 20	CRP General Sign-up Period starts and continues through June 14.
May 31	Final Availability for 2012 crop corn and soybean loans and LDPs.
June 7	Final Availability for 2011 SURE for 2011 crop losses.
March 1 through July 15	Primary Nesting season – no spraying, mowing, etc of CRP acreage without FSA approval.
Continuous	Continuous CRP enrollment.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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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."