



NEWSLETTER



Crawford County FSA Office

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

June 2013

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

Acreage & Crop Reporting Requirements

Producers are reminded of the ANNUAL acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. The acreage reporting deadlines for 2013 are as follows:

- July 15th for any spring-seeded crops (corn & soybeans), fruits and vegetables, forage crops;
- August 15th for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres; and
- December 15th for wheat and other fall seeded crops.

Prevented planted and failed cropland acres that will not be brought to harvest have slightly different timelines.

- Prevented planting acres must be reported within 15 calendar days of the Federal Crop Insurance Companies (FCIC) established ending planting dates. For corn, the FCIC ending planting date is June 5, and for soybeans the ending planting date is June 20.

- Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Failure to timely report failed planting acres may result in loss of potential disaster assistance, as well as maintaining cropping history.
- 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.

Missing any of these deadlines could cause FSA payments to be held and a late filing penalty fee to be charged. So, please contact the Crawford county FSA office if you have any questions or to set up an appointment to report your acreage.

Special Accommodation

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.

DCP Deadline Reminder

The enrollment period for the Direct & Counter Program (DCP) is still underway until August 2, 2013. [Read more about DCP](#) or contact the Crawford County FSA office for more information, or to setup an appointment.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP acres according to the Conservation Plan of Operations. Weed control is essential to ensure the integrity of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). 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 FSA.

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.

County Committee Nomination



From **June 17 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Crawford County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. An election will be held for the Crawford County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Tod, Holmes, Liberty and Vernon.

The Crawford County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Crawford County Committee. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the 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 and [online](#).

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Talk to the Crawford County Committee, Trevor Kerr, County Executive Director at (419) 562 8936 or stop in the office 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/elections>.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 17 through August 1**. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on August 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2013. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 4. December 2 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2014.

Wool & Pelt Producers

Wool and pelt producers are reminded the final application date for the 2013 crop Loan / LDP is January 31, 2014

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped 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.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — The division of bases, allotments, quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling estate
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding
- **DCP Cropland Method** — The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract
- **Default Method** — The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or

members of socially disadvantaged groups (SDA) to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s median farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

Note: All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in a business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Ranchers and more basic qualifications required, contact your Crawford county FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.000%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

2012 ACRE Program Production Report

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for 2012 are required to report 2012 production to be used to compute 2012 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2013

benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2012 production is **July 15, 2013**. Production reports may be submitted by the 2012 crop year operator, owner or other producer with an interest in the reported acreage. Failure to file a production report (FSA-658) for a farm enrolled in ACRE will result in the farm’s producers being ineligible for any ACRE contract payments and the actual yield used to determine future benchmark farm yields will be zero.

CRP enrollment continues

Participants are reminded Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment is underway through September under the provisions of the 2008 “Farm Bill”. Continuous CRP includes grass waterways, filter strips, windbreaks, shelterbelts, pollinator habitat to name a few. If you are interested in enrolling any acreage into CRP contact the Crawford County Farm Service Agency. We will work through scenarios and the options available for you to determine which is best suited to your operation.

Disaster Assistance

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

Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL-determined soils are reminded to comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements specified in their conservation plan. Farmers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these activities can result in the loss of eligibility for certain USDA program benefits.

Changes?

Participants are reminded to inform FSA of any banking changes promptly to avoid payment delay. Additionally, participants are reminded to promptly submit land ownership, mailing address, E-mail address, and entity membership changes. The sooner these types of changes are addressed, the less long-term impact they will have on program benefits.

Farm Transfers

Participants are reminded FSA procedure permits the transferring of individual farm records between contiguous counties as a service to our participants. Interested parties are encouraged to contact a FSA office to determine what option works best for your operation.

Crawford County Farm Loan Program Access

The Crawford County Farm Service Agency is pleased to announce, effective July, FSA Farm Loan Officer Pam Sparks will be in the Crawford County FSA office each Tuesday. FSA has a wide and diverse portfolio of loan programs available to the public including, but not limited to, direct and guaranteed loans that can be used to purchase or improve real estate, finance livestock and machinery, beginning farmer loans, micro loans used to consolidate debt under \$35,000, emergency loans and annual operating capital. Interested parties are encouraged to be proactive in planning and applying for benefits. Help welcome Pam as she begins this new schedule in Crawford County by scheduling your appointment to determine what Farm Loan Program best fits your needs.

Dates to Remember	
June 14	CRP General sign-up ends.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final crop acreage certification date.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Deadline to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2013.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 2	Deadline to sign-up for 2013 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP).

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

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To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."