



# Delaware County News

November 2008

Delaware County  
USDA Service Center

Delaware County FSA  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

Hours  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee  
Craig Pittman, Chair  
Dwight Piper, Vice Chair  
Ed R Reely, Member  
Carolyn Skinner, Advisor

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 8:30 am

Staff  
Don Henry, CED  
Margaret Webster, PT  
Patty Hope, PT  
Julie Faurote, PT  
Hal Clase, Field Reporter

## Extending the 2008 DCP Sign-Up Deadline for Farms with 10.0 or Less Base Acres

On October 13, 2008 H.R. 6849 was enacted and provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less covered commodities not previously enrolled. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less **have until November 26, 2008** to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. H.R. 6849 **does not extend** the DCP sign-up deadline for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

With the extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less to Nov. 26, 2008, late filed crop acreage report requirement and fees will be waived on farms with 10.0 base acres or less if filed **by COB, December 1, 2008**. This **does not waive** late filed crop acreage report requirements or fees for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

Visit your local FSA office, if you are interested in signing-up.

## SURE Online Calculator

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. For your convenience, FSA has placed a SURE calculator on its Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

The calculator and instructions can be easily downloaded. Once the download is made, you will be able to calculate your estimated SURE Guarantee, estimated Expected Revenue, estimated Farm Revenue and estimated SURE payment.

**The calculator is a tool to help with calculations for SURE, it is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information.**

By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is impor-

tant to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

**Note, FSA reminds users that the calculator and instructions are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way provides exact FSA payments under SURE.**

## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1st.

The candidates in this year's election are: Scott Bauder & Carolyn Skinner nominated in LAA 2, Delaware County, to serve as a committee member.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area two who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



## NAP Coverage Closing Date is Dec. 1

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late defining the 2009 risk management NAP Coverage requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage purchase date for 2009 only. As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- The date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

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 catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, rye, barley, speltz, apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for all hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap, aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turfgrass sod and watercress in **Ohio, is December 1, 2008.**

For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. 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.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

## Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. Continuous CRP practices include; grassed waterways, filter strips, quail buffers and wetland restorations.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

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## Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

### *Operating Loan Applications Needed Now*

Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

## Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information any-time day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC 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. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

The November 2008 Interest Rate is 2.50%. Delaware County loan rates are \$1.98 for corn & \$5.11 for soybeans.

## Reasonable Accommodations

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.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.375%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.250%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.500%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 3	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 10	SAFE Sign-up begins in designated areas.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Dec. 1	<b>Application deadline</b> for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops.
Dec. 1	<b>Last day</b> to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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