Delaware County News

August 2008

Delaware County USDA Service Center

Delaware County FSA
557 Sunbury Rd, Suite C
Delaware OH 43015
740-363-3671 (phone)
740-363-6520 (fax)

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
2nd Tuesday, 8:30 am

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

County Committee Elections

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election **is closed.** Nominations were due in the county office on **Friday, Aug. 1.** Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters **by Nov. 3.** Voted ballots must be returned to the county office **by Dec. 1** or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.

If no valid nominations have been filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities.

County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as; commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can 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.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters **by Nov. 3.** The last day to return voted ballots to the county office **is Dec. 1.**
- Newly elected county committee members take office **Jan. 1, 2009.**

For detailed information about FSA county committees visit the county office or go on-line at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce.

Crop Certification Deadline

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill for permanent disaster programs, producers were not notified that they **must report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest to meet the requirements of the disaster provisions**. This includes crops on cropland and or non-cropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed or grazed. For 2008, the final crop reporting date is **August 15, 2008**. Late file fees shall be waived for producers who wish to report crops for 2008 permanent disaster programs. This does not waive late-filed fees for crops reported for other program purposes. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including prevented planted and failed acreage can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

CRP & NAP Certification
Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov.

The FSA-211 form obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

2008 DCP Sign-up Continues

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local FSA office.

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying the applicable administrative fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF), or Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is $100 per crop, but not more than $300 per producer per administrative county, or $900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA county office to get more information or pay applicable fees **by September 16, 2008**.

Critical Feed Use of CRP Acres

On May 27, 2008, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled in CRP to be available for Critical Feed Use (CFU) after the primary nesting season for grass-nesting birds, which ended on July 15th for Ohio. On July 8, 2008, a Federal judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) regarding CFU, halting access to hay and forage. On July 24, 2008, the Court issued a Final Injunction which allows:

CRP participants who were approved before the July 8, 2008 TRO to immediately proceed with the approved activity provided the haying or grazing must end by November 10, 2008.

County offices may now process applications from CRP participants who applied but were not approved before the July 8, 2008 TRO. For these cases, haying must end by September 30, 2008, and grazing must end by October 15, 2008.

For all other cases, no CFU applications are authorized unless the producer can provide: documentary proof of investment of $4,500 toward haying or grazing equipment or preparation made prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2008; and a declaration by the CRP participant that continuation of the operation relies on the availability of CFU. In these cases, haying must end by September 30, 2008, and grazing by October 15, 2008.

In all cases, annual rental payments will not be reduced, but acres hayed or grazed will count against future managed haying or grazing. With respect to managed haying and grazing, this means that any CFU activity allowed by the Court order will “restart the clock” for future managed haying or grazing, meaning the activity will restart the cycle for managed haying and grazing and the next such managed haying and grazing cannot occur until the full cycle has been completed from the time of the CFU. For example, if the producer is allowed managed haying and grazing every three years, the next managed haying and grazing cannot occur until 2011.

Producers should contact their local FSA office with any questions regarding Critical Feed Use.

New Tent at the Farm Science Review Focuses on the Economics of Conservation

Did you know that the money invested in conservation on marginal crop land can be recouped or even surpass the revenue lost from the marginal crops harvested from difficult areas in a field? For example, drowned out areas of fields can be converted to small wetlands with a guaranteed income for at least 10 years. The conservation experts at the new Farm Science Review Conservation tent will explain who offers cost share assistance for conservation and how to take the hassle out of conservation planning. Other topics, such as increasing farm income by converting less productive crop land to conservation cover and tailoring conservation practices to attract desired wildlife, will be explained by experts in the conservation tent.

This new conservation tent will be located in lot 323 in the Lawrence Vance Soil and Water Conservation Park. On-site conservation consultations with technical experts will be available for farmers. A preliminary plan on an aerial photo will be printed out for the farmer to take back to local conservation office for further assistance. A drawing for a beautiful conservation print will be held for those interested in learning more about how conservation can save them money while benefitting the farm's natural resources.

Whether your interest is with establishing wildlife habitat, generating income from marginal crop land, or simply to learn more about conservation programs and technical assistance, we hope you'll stop by the Conservation Park and check us out. This tent is sponsored by the USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Defense, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Selected Interest Rates for August 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.875%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.250%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.375%

NAP Coverage Closing Date Extended

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late about the 2009 risk management purchase requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. The National Farm Service Agency office (FSA) has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) activity for 2009. **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, forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers, all spring planted specialty crops grown for food, 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 Farm Service Agency office.

Delaware County FSA Office
557 Sunbury Rd, Suite C
Delaware OH 43015

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Re-Enrolling Expiring CRP Contracts

CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2008 may be eligible to be re-enrolled with a new 10- to 15-year contract, provided the current contract scheduled to expire in September is in full compliance. If re-enrolled, the new continuous signup contract would begin October 1, 2008. All re-enrolled continuous signup CRP contracts will require new conservation plans to be developed. Other provisions may also apply.

For further information regarding re-enrollment of an expiring CRP contract or for information regarding conservation and wetland compliance provisions for land leaving CRP and returning to crop production, please contact your local FSA office.

Please note that after the expiration of a CRP contract that had been devoted to trees, the acreage will no longer be considered cropland and may become ineligible for CRP or other farm programs. However, this provision does not apply for acreage immediately re-enrolled into a new contract without any intervening period of time.

If you are interested in re-enrolling your expiring CRP acreage, county office staff can help you determine which continuous CRP or CREP practices can work on your expiring acres. Please contact your administrative county FSA office as soon as possible to ensure your contract is approved by September 30th.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	**Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	**Final date** to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 15	**Final certification date** for all crops.
Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Sept. 16	**Final date** for the SURE, EALHF, LFP or TAP program buy-in.
Sept. 30	**Deadline** to sign-up ends for 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.
Sept. 30	**Deadline** to approve CRP Re-Enrollments Expiring.
Dec. 1	**Application deadline** for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

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

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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