Delaware County News

July 2010

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 Com mittee
Ed Reely, Chair
Dwight Piper, Vice Chair
Scott Bauder, 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
Cathy Beacom, Temp
Debbie Ufferman, Temp
Hal Clase, Field Reporter

FSA COC Nomination Deadline Nears

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the **August 2, 2010, deadline**.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office. You may also go on-line and download the form from our Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen. 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. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 2, 2010.
FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.
FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 5, 2010. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 6, 2010.

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.

2009 ACRE Program Production Reports

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for 2009 are required to report 2009 production to be used to compute 2009 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2010 benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2009 production reports **is July 15, 2010** for small grains and other crops. Production reports may be submitted by the 2009 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.

Sign-up Continues For Tree Assistance Program

Orchardists and nursery tree growers have **until July 6, 2010** to submit an application and provide supporting documentation for Tree Assistance Program (TAP) benefits for losses suffered during calendar years **2008** and **2009**, and for losses suffered during **January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010**. From **May 8, 2010 to September 30, 2011** producers have within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent to submit an application and supporting documentation.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes, and vines are planted
- replace eligible trees, bushes, vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

For more information about the TAP, please visit your local FSA office or to read the TAP factsheet go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tap051010.pdf .

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners and operators who are willing to sell or lease Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or minority farmers. The Transition Incentive Program (TIP) provides annual rental payments to the retired or retiring landowners for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Sign-up for the new TIP program began in May, at local FSA offices.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or minority farmer to make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or minority farmer by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

The program was created by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill in a bid to help beginning and minority farmers get over one of the biggest hurdles they face - finding affordable land. Ohio has approximately 32,826 acres expiring from CRP over the next two years.

To learn more about the TIP program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA FSA county office or to read the TIP Factsheet visit: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tip051410.pdf .

Selected Interest Rates for July 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

SURE Program

Applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are still being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that were incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

To trigger a SURE payment, participants must have at least one crop of economic significance suffer a 10% production loss due by comparing the actual production on the SURE farm to that crop, and have either of the following:

- a portion of the SURE farm located in a natural disaster county designated by the Secretary, including contiguous counties; or
- an overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected revenue for the farm for that crop year.

For more information about SURE, visit the National FSA SURE website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA and then click on the *"Disaster Assistance Programs"* link and then select the *"Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)"* link under the *"Related Topics"* to read the factsheet or visit the local FSA office.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!

Presidential Disaster Designation Declared In Kentucky Due to Severe May Storms, Affects 5 Ohio Counties

Decision Allows Farmers to Apply for USDA Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 5 counties in Ohio as agricultural natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Seventy-nine counties were designated in Kentucky as primary natural disaster areas, due to severe storms, flooding, mudslides and tornadoes that occurred between **May 1, 2010 through June 1, 2010.** The counties listed below are also eligible because they are contiguous counties.

Adams County	May 11, 2010
Lawrence and Scioto Counties	May 24, 2010
Brown and Clermont Counties	May 28, 2010

The five Ohio counties were designated natural disaster areas on three different dates due to President Obama amending the declaration to include additional primary disaster counties in Kentucky. This makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for consideration of low-interest emergency loans from USDA's FSA.

To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources and meet eligibility requirements. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all 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. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

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

Loans on Wheat Contaminated With Vomitoxin

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), reports that Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through County FSA offices, will make Marketing Assistance Loans on 2010 crop year wheat contaminated with vomitoxin. The loans carry a nine month term and can be repaid anytime during the nine month term. The 2010 wheat national average loan rates by class are listed in the table below. The loan rate for soft red winter wheat varies by county from $1.78 to 1.99 per bushel. The contaminated wheat may be stored on the farm or in a state licensed commercial warehouse.

Wheat Class	2010 National Average Loan Rate (per Bushel)
Durum	$5.75
Hard Red Spring (HRS)	$3.81
Hard Red Winter (HRW)	$2.71
Soft Red Winter (SRW)	$1.87
Soft White (SWH)	$3.16

Vomitoxin has been detected in the 2010 crop year wheat in some areas of the state. Loans may be requested on 2010 crop year wheat through March 31, 2011. The loan interest is 1.375% for loans disbursed in July 2010. A favorable interest is announced for each calendar month.

Interest will initially accrue at the rate in effect for the month of disbursement, and change on January 1 of the following year. Wheat producers should note that CCC Marketing Assistance Loans provide a valuable marketing tool for 2010 production.

For more information about Marketing Assistance Loans, visit your local FSA office.

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 2** 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 and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an 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.

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

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested **by August 2** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options your can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Dates to Remember	
July 5	Independence Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 2	**Final date** to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 2	**Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."