



Hancock FSA News

September 2010

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment. There are no provisions for late-file applications.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops.

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!

FSA Announces New Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. Or visit the Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh and select the "County Offices" link to locate the nearest FSA office.

CRP Annual Payments

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Staff wants to be certain CRP annual payments are correctly and timely made. Please notify your local FSA office if: your mailing address has changed; payee ID numbers have changed; or participant shares have changed. If you have established a trust agreement as a result of an estate planning process, or recently formed an entity (partnership, corporation, LLC, etc.) and you are enrolled in CRP, please report these changes as soon as possible to ensure proper payments are made. The easiest way to tell if the correct person(s) are being paid is to review the names and payment shares on the CRP-1 contract.

**Hancock County
USDA Service Center**

Hancock County FSA
7868 County Rd. 140
Findlay, Ohio 45840
419-422-5438 (phone)
419-422-5105 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/OH

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

County Committee
Richard Cupples
Michael Conley
Karen Conine

Co. Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of each
month @ 9:00 a.m.
@ FSA Office.

Staff:
Sue Doolittle
Sue Stahl
Casey Gunder
Diane Parke
Janis Wittenmyer
John Deeds, Field
Lynae Anspach, Temp
Steve Inbody



USDA Grants Assistance Ends Sept. 23 for Asparagus and Catfish Producers under Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) For Farmers Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced that it has certified a petition for catfish under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program. Individual asparagus and catfish producers, nationwide, interested in applying for technical training and cash benefits must complete and submit a written application to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office **by Sept. 23, 2010**. The TAA for Farmers Program provides technical training and cash benefits to eligible U.S. producers and fishermen of raw agricultural commodities whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities.

After reviewing a petition submitted in April 2010 by the Catfish Farmers of America and by the National Asparagus Council, FAS determined that increased imports of asparagus and catfish during January-December 2009 contributed importantly to a greater than 15-percent decline in the value of production in 2009, compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years.

Program benefits include cash payments and free technical training designed to help producers develop and implement business adjustment plans. Producers that develop an approved initial business plan will receive up to \$4,000 as payment toward implementing the plan or developing a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers who subsequently develop approved long-term business adjustment plans are entitled to receive an additional cash payment of up to \$8,000 to be applied toward implementing the plan. A producer may not receive more than \$12,000 or benefit from any other TAA program during the 36-month period following certification of a group petition. Travel and subsistence expenses related to attending training sessions may also be reimbursable.

General information about the TAA for Farmers Program can be found on the FAS website at: www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa or contact the TAA for Farmers Program staff in the Office of Trade Programs at telephone (202) 720-0638 or (202) 690-0633, or by e-mail at tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov. Applications (*form FSA 229-1*) are available on the FAS website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taafoms.asp>.

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With the high temperatures this summer, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact your local FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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 FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2011 NAP coverage on Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz **is Sept. 30, 2010** in Ohio.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Sept. 30, 2010. 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. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

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

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	5.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.125%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee **by Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive 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.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount, not to exceed \$250,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities in Ohio are eligible for FSFL:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;

Hancock Co. FSA Office
7868 Co. Rd 140 Suite C
Findlay, Ohio 45840



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- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Renewable biomass; and
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA Price Support website at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Sept. 30	Deadline to submit an application for payment for the 2008 SURE Program.
Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 20	Last day to apply for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey and maple syrup.
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

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