



# NEWSLETTER



## Hancock County FSA Office

7868 CR 140  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-422-5438 phone  
419-422-5105 fax

### Hours

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

## April 2013

### County Office Staff

Jim Greve,  
County Executive  
Director

Holly Gates,  
Farm Loan Manager

Casey Gunder,  
Diane Parke,  
Sue Stahl,  
Janis Wittenmyer,  
Program Technicians

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

## DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

All payments under the DCP are subject to the availability of funds and compliance with all laws including those that may be passed after a DCP Contract is signed. This may include a reduction in the amount of Direct Payments due to any sequester order required by legislation. FSA will notify producers of any required percentage reduction of DCP payments.

The 2013 Direct Payments will be as follows: Corn 28 cents per bushel, Soybeans 44 cents and Wheat 52 cents. Producers should contact the Hancock County Farm Service Agency as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for the 2013 DCP/ACRE sign-up 419-422-5438 (Ext. 2). The deadline to enroll in the DCP is August 2, 2013 and for ACRE is June 3, 2013 to sign-up.

For more information concerning the DCP/ACRE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact the Hancock County Farm Service Agency at 419-422-5438 (Ext. 2) or visit the FSA website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through **June 7, 2013**. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and

NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Hancock County FSA office at 419-422-5438 or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

## Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2012 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be May 31, 2013**.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm

storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now 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. New 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.

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 are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

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

For more information about FSFL please visit the Hancock County FSA or go online to read the [FSFL Fact Sheet](#).

## Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With spring right around the corner, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact the Hancock county FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has extended the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. **All claims must now be filed by May 1, 2013.**

Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices in the past from the USDA have additional time to file a claim in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness. USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and to file their claim packages on or before May 1, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to visit the website at any time or to contact the call center telephone number Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may be emailed or faxed.

Once a claim is submitted to the Claims Administrator, the Claims Administrator will determine if it is timely and complete. If it is, the claim will move to the Claims Adjudicator for a determination on the merits of the claim. USDA may submit evidence to the Claims Adjudicator regarding the claim. If a claim is deemed incomplete, a claimant will be notified by the Claims Administrator and given the opportunity to provide additional information within a certain timeframe. Claimants may check the status of their claims on the claims website.

- Website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)
- Phone: 1-888-508-4429
- Fax: (855) 626-8343
- Email: [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org)
- Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Independent companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

## 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.

### Applicants Must:

- 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 the Hancock County FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.500%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.250%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

## NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with the Hancock County FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need

to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2013 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

## Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting quickly approaching, the Hancock County Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

"It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction," said Hancock County Executive Director, Jim Greve. "This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments."

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. 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. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. To be eligible for crop disaster programs in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting the Hancock County FSA office at 419-422-5438(Ext. 2).

## 45th CRP General Sign-Up Starts Soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 320,000 acres are enrolled in CRP in Ohio. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on approximately 55,000 acres of CRP in Ohio are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring

contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

More information about the CRP general sign-up [can be found here](#) or contact the Hancock County FSA office at 419-422-5438 (Ext. 2).

## Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

In addition to microloans, FSA offers several farm loan programs that provide funding to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or can be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the Hancock county FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official. The Microloan program Fact Sheet can be [found here](#).

Dates to Remember	
May 1	Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers claims deadline to file a claims packet.
May 20	CRP General Sign-up Period starts and continues through June 14.
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2012 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 3	<b>Deadline</b> to sign-up for 2013 ACRE program.
June 7	Deadline to sign-up for the 2011 SURE program.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

### 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.

### Actively Engaged

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Each partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest must contribute active personal labor and/or active personal management to the farming operation on a regular basis. The contribution must be identifiable and documentable; as well as separate and distinct from the contributions made by any other partner, stockholder or member. If any partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest fails to meet this requirement, program payments will be reduced by the corresponding share held by that partner, stockholder or member. There is an exception allowed for legal entities, such as corporations, if total direct payments received both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and its members do not exceed \$40,000

For more information about actively engaged, visit the Hancock County FSA or go online to read the [Actively Engaged Fact Sheet](#).

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."