



# NEWSLETTER



## Medina-Cuyahoga County FSA Office

6090 Wedgewood Rd  
Medina, OH 44256

P 330-722-2628 x2  
F 855-840-7822

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

**June 2014**

### County Office Staff

Theresa Johnson,  
County Executive  
Director

Robin Smith,  
Carroll Weinbroer,  
Program Technicians

Kurt Leber,  
Farm Loan Officer,  
FLP

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

## When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office **within 15 days of the final planting date\*** of the crop. (**Corn – \*June 5, Soybeans – \*June 20, Wheat - \*10/20**) This applies to all crops, whether or not covered by crop insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

Producers with NAP coverage should contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application before destroying and within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

## 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Average Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Review

The AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicates may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the AGI limitation of \$500,000 nonfarm income, \$750,000 farm income, \$1 million of conservation program benefits or the \$1 million total AGI, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the applicable limitation. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office. Adverse

determinations become administratively final if not timely appealed and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

## NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with the 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 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

## 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to call the FSA office for an appointment to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.



The following are acreage reporting date deadlines:

- **June 2, 2014** --- Report Nursery Crop Acreage.
- **July 15, 2014** --- Report all your Cabbage (Planted 3/19/14-5/31/14), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, and all other crops.
- **Aug. 15, 2014** --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/14-7/20/14).
- **Dec. 15, 2014** --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

The acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

## GovDelivery NOT impacted by the Heartbleed bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

## Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-up has begun

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Ohio has been hit hard this past winter with record low temperatures and with spring finally here, orchard and vineyard producers have begun to see the extent of damage.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

If physical evidence of the lost trees, bushes, or vines no longer exists, the owner must provide documentation to determine the eligible trees, bushes, or vines existed and were lost on each stand because of the approved disaster condition.

For more information, producers are encouraged to review the TAP fact sheet at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

## Are you thinking about selling land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?

If you plan to sell farmland that's enrolled in the CRP, our office would like to remind you about the terms and conditions of your contract.

Under the CRP program, the original contract (CRP-1) will need to be revised to reflect the change in participants and/or shares on the contract. The new CRP participant(s) must sign a revised contract within 60 calendar days from the date of notification by the county committee or county executive director. If a revised contract isn't signed within the 60 day timeframe, the contract will be terminated with respect to the affected portions of such land and the original CRP participant will be held liable.

If the new landowner elects not to continue the CRP contract, the contract will be terminated. When a contract is terminated, refund of the following payments plus interest is required from the original CRP participant: all annual rental payments, all cost share payments, signup incentive payments, and practice incentive payments. Liquidated damages are also assessed.

Refunds of payments will not be required in cases where the owner's estate or the heirs do not succeed to the contract. There are other cases that do not require the refund of payments, when a participant loses control of the land, such as eminent domain.

Contact the FSA office if you have any questions regarding the terms and conditions of your CRP contract.

## Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farm Loans

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

**Note:** All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in a business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants contact the FSA county office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

## FSA Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

## FSA Encourages Early Reporting of Farm Record Changes

FSA recommends that producers register in advance for our programs in order to improve the sign-up process and expedite implementation of programs. Producers are encouraged to report farm records and business structure changes.

Examples of updates or changes to report include:

- New producers or producers who have not reported farm records to FSA.
- Producers who have recently bought, sold or rented land. Those producers need to ensure that changes have been reported and properly recorded by local FSA county office personnel. Reports of purchased or sold property should include a copy of the land deed, and if land has been leased, then documentation should be provided that indicates the producer had/has control of the acreage.

- Producers that have changed business structures (e.g. formed a partnership or LLC) need to ensure that these relationships and shares are properly recorded with FSA. Even family farms that have records on file may want to ensure that this is recorded accurately as it may impact payment limits.

Producers can contact the county FSA office to find out what paperwork they may need. In addition, bank account information should be supplied or updated if necessary to ensure that producers receive payments as quickly as possible through direct deposit.

### Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

### New FAX Number

Please note that the Medina-Cuyahoga County FSA office now has a new fax number. Our new FAX number is **(855) 840-7822**. Please use this new number for any future correspondence sent to the Medina-Cuyahoga County Farm Service Agency by FAX.

Dates to Remember	
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
May 30	Last day to vote on Soybean Request for Referendum.
June 2	Deadline to apply for 2013 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
July 15	Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.
July 15	Final date to submit 2013 production for ACRE participants.

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To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."