



**Sandusky
County
FSA Office**

2000 Countryside Dr.
Fremont, Ohio

419-334-6330 Ext 2.
419-334-8477 Fax

Hours

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

**November
2011**

County Office Staff

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CED

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

**Apply Today
for the 2010
SURE
Program or
2011
Commodity
Loan.
Details inside!**

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business December 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 5, 2011. Candidates for the County Committee representative for LAA 1 (Woodville, Madison, Scott and Jackson Townships) are Theresa Miller and David Gutschalk.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loan Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producers could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues, please contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepsseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting the website or by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

FSA Moving to Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is attempting to conduct business operations in a more timely and cost effective manner. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers may now receive free e-mail updates by contacting your local FSA office or can go online and subscribe at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

This and future newsletters may be obtained at our office counter or viewed online by navigating to the Ohio FSA Internet website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=oh&area=home&subject=nele&topic=landing>

Producers are encouraged to provide their email address to the FSA Office.

2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE applications begins November 14, 2011 and will end June 1, 2012. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:



- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations (*Sandusky County qualifies under this provision*) including contiguous counties, which have incurred crop production or quality losses in excess of 10% on at least one crop. This includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for 2010, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production on the farm.

Eligible producers who suffered losses during the 2010 crop year are encouraged to call the FSA office to schedule an appointment. Prior to your appointment, FSA staff will print crop insurance data for the producer. For more SURE information visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

Notice of Loss Filing Extended for Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA announced that producers interested in applying for losses that occurred on or before Sept. 30, 2011, have until, the earlier of 30 days after loss becomes apparent, but no later than December 29, 2011 to file a notice of loss to be eligible for the four disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill: Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Disasters occurring after this date are not eligible for program coverage.

Once notices of loss are filed for LFP, LIP or ELAP, producers will have until January 30, 2012, to submit all required documentation and complete the application for payment. Producers have 90 days from the time a loss is apparent to file an application for TAP. Adequate documentation must prove the loss occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Producers should contact their local FSA county offices with any questions about LFP, TAP, ELAP or LIP. Information on the disaster programs can be found at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files may be updated. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the more timely the FSA staff can process your request. Due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that FSA funding allocations have been depleted. Decisions on loans cannot be made until a complete application is received.

Farmers should contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information on requirements for loan applications.

Treasury Check Changes

Beginning in 2013, the Treasury Department will no longer issue paper checks. Producers, who elect not to receive direct deposit, will be issued some type of debit card for the program payment. Producers that receive payments electronically using Direct Deposit will not be affected by this change.

Direct Deposits decrease the number of missing and late payments and reduces the time required to transfer funds. Another benefit is that a Direct Deposit to your account may be made within 48 hours.

If you are not interested in receiving a debit card for program payments, then contact your local FSA office to electronically receive direct deposit payments into your banking institution.

Selling Land

If you are planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, producers planning to sell land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program must repay all payments and liquidated damages if the buyer does not agree to succeed to the CRP contract. Selling land for a house lot or other non-agricultural use may require the producer to reduce the crop base acres on a farm because crop bases cannot exceed available cropland.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is a prudent decision. If you have any question concerning this matter, please give us a call.

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

Farm Loan Manager, Holly Gates (419-447-7071), reminds interested applicants that FSA offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants may have suffered financial difficulties due to natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA offers two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,214,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers that have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

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 include Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning and SDA farmers. For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.750%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.500%
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%

New AGI Form for 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA began using CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept CCC-926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA.

Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or may be downloaded at the Ohio FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. The form is located under the section titled "I Want To" on the homepage. Producers may print, complete and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be permitted to use the FSA-211 for authority to complete the CCC-931.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not be eligible for USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

NAP Deadline

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to assist producers with 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 2012 NAP coverage on Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, *Forage for Hay* and Pasture, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Strawberries, Honey and Maple Syrup is **Nov. 21, 2011** in Ohio. Producers who already have coverage on 2012 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Nov. 21, 2011. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage on the same crop or crops. The NAP service fee is \$250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per county. Total NAP fees cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

NAP coverage is only available for crops not covered under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Producers must file a NAP "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the date when a loss is apparent.

Crop Year 2011 Crop Loans Available

The Sandusky County Farm Service Agency has announced the 2011 Market Assistance Loan Rate for corn and soybeans. For 2011, the corn loan rate is \$1.92 per bushel while soybeans are \$5.11 per bushel. The loan rate for wheat is \$2.27. The Market Assistance Loan program provides producers with cash flow at a reasonable interest rate while the wheat, corn or soybeans are in storage on the farm or at a local elevator. The October 2011 interest rate is 1.125%.

Market Assistance Loans assist producers in obtaining cash flow while crops remain in storage and are marketed at a future date. Producers that are interested in obtaining a 9 month Market Assistance Loan on stored commodities must apply for the loan by visiting the local Farm Service Agency office. Loan funds are issued using Direct Deposit, so loan funds will not be available to you for 2 to 3 days following loan closing so producers must plan accordingly. Contact our office if you would like more information about commodity loans.

Report Farm Record Changes for 2012

Producers may now report changes to their farming operation for the 2012 crop year. It is important for landowners and operators to report changes to the Farm Service Agency to ensure USDA records are accurate and proper benefits are paid. Some changes that must be reported to the Farm Service Agency include but are not limited to farm ownership, farm operator, cropland acreage and bank account changes. To process a farm ownership change, the current landowner must provide proof of ownership such as a copy of a deed. If there is a change in operator on a farm for the 2012 crop year, this change should be reported to FSA by the farm owner. Changes in cropland acreage or land use are quite common in Sandusky County. The most common cropland changes that must be reported to the Farm Service Agency include cropland sold or devoted to a non-agricultural use such as residential housing, farm buildings or industrial use.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign Up Begins January 23rd

Sign up for the 2012 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) has been delayed and will begin **January 23, 2012**. In the past, producers were eligible to begin enrollment in DCP and ACRE in November. For 2012, **ADVANCE DIRECT PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE OFFERED** due to provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill which prohibited Advance Payments for the 2012 crop year. Even though Advance Payments are not being issued for 2012, Final Direct Payments will be issued in October 2012. To receive these payments, producers must enroll in DCP or ACRE by no later than June 1, 2012. Call us today to schedule an appointment.

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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."

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 4	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 14	Sign-up Begins for the 2010 SURE Program.
Nov. 21	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. 24	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 5	Last day to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 26	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Jan. 2	New Year's 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

Foreign Investor Reporting Requirements

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires that foreign investors purchasing an interest in agriculture land must report such land acquisitions to the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency on form FSA-153. This form must be filed within 90 days of the purchase of the agricultural land. Failure to report these purchases may result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. The form may be obtained from your local Farm Service Agency Office.