



NEWSLETTER



Sandusky County FSA Office

2000 Countryside Drive, Fremont Ohio 43420

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

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

July 2012

County Office Staff

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

2012 and 2013 Final Acreage Reporting Dates

To remain eligible for most Farm Service Agency programs, producers are required to report planted acreage of crops by the applicable deadline. Some of these programs include but are not limited to the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, Average Crop Revenue Election Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Marketing Assistance Loans.

The **2012 crop** year reporting deadlines are:

- July 2, 2012 for Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)
- July 16, 2012 for Corn, Soybeans, Hay, Cabbage Planted by May 31st and Most Vegetable Crops
- August 15, 2012 for CRP and Cabbage Planted between June 1st and July 20th

The **2013 crop** year reporting deadlines are:

- December 17, 2012 for Fall Seeded Wheat and Barley (Normal date will be December 15, however the 15th is a Saturday so producers have until the next business day) **(THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE)! Under previous rules, wheat and barley acreage would not have to be reported until June 30, 2013. Please ensure you add this NEW deadline to your calendar**
- January 15, 2013 for Apples and Grapes **(THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE)!**
- July 15, 2013 for Corn, Soybeans, Hay, Cabbage Planted by May 31st and Most Vegetable Crops
- August 15, 2013 for CRP and Cabbage Planted between June 1st and July 20th

Because of the change in the certification dates, producers that miss the applicable certification deadline may have their late filed fees waived between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. **THIS WAIVER DOES NOT APPLY TO 2012 CROP WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS or other small grains. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY TO ENSURE YOU REPORT YOUR 2013 WHEAT CROP TO THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY BY DECEMBER 17, 2012.**

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in implementing Farm Programs. County Committee elections in Sandusky County will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 which includes Townsend, York, Green Creek and Riley Townships. The deadline to submit a nominating petition is August 1, 2012. To be eligible to serve, the candidate must be an eligible landowner or farm operator in LAA 3.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A which is available at the FSA office or on-line from the Farm Service Agency website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster, conservation, emergency, commodity and price support loan programs.

2012 Farm Tire Recycling Collection

The agricultural community will have an opportunity to recycle their unwanted farm tires through a collection sponsored by the Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Joint Solid Waste District. The event will be held at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds in Fremont, Ohio at the North Parking Lot. No dealers or Agri-Businesses will be permitted.

Pre-registration and a fee is required to participate. Registration will begin Monday, August 13th at 8:00 A.M. and will end Friday, August 24th at 4:30 P.M. To pre-register, you must call the Solid Waste District Main Office at 419-334-7222 or toll free at 1-888-850-7224.

A tire disposal fee is charged based on the size of the tire. For details, please contact the Solid Waste District office.

Producers Must Report Crop Losses to FSA

Producers enrolled in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report any crop losses resulting from weather-related disaster events within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent.



Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster such as drought, excessive rain or hail. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 - "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program."

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

May MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of May. USDA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations.

The MILC payment trigger price of \$16.94 is adjusted upward when the National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for a month is greater than \$7.35 per cwt. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service releases the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost monthly. Using this information, the MILC payment trigger for the month of May has been adjusted to \$21.80, for a final MILC payment rate of \$ 1.2164177 per hundredweight. Milk producers should continue to file production reports with the FSA office each month to receive any future MILC payments.

Dates to Remember	
July 2	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 16	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	Deadline to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2012.
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Oct. 1	Deadline to obtain 2013 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz. (NAP is only for crops for which crop insurance is not available)
Nov 20	Deadline to obtain 2013 NAP coverage for Apples, Blueberries, Hay, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, Pears, Honey, Maple Syrup

Conservation Reserve Program Reminders

The Conservation Reserve Program is a voluntary program that takes land out of crop production and converts it to a conservation use such as a grass seeding, tree planting, wildlife habitat or wetland. Sign up for the Conservation Reserve program is continuous for areas being offered for environmentally sensitive areas such as filter strips along a ditch or stream. Producers are issued a cost share payment to establish the conservation practice and are issued annual rental payments each October.

The Sandusky County Farm Service Agency reminds landowners and farm operators enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program of their maintenance responsibilities during the life of the contract.

Each Conservation Reserve Program contract has a conservation plan of operation that outlines the practice requirements developed at approval. All maintenance activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife in accordance with the provisions of the conservation plan. The primary nesting season in Ohio has been identified as March 1 through July 15, 2012. Producers that need to control noxious weeds such as Canadian Thistle must request permission from the Farm Service Agency to spot mow or spot spray prior through July 15, 2012. After July 15th, the landowner or farm operator may spot mow or spot spray for noxious weeds without prior approval. Cosmetic or yearly mowing is not permitted on acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Producers with a CRP grass seeding are reminded to control woody vegetation (volunteer trees) to remain in compliance.

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign

- individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA county office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the form at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf .

Although interested parties may obtain a report form from any FSA county office, the completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land or where the programs are administered.

Foreign investors should contact your local FSA if this pertains to you. To locate the FSA county office, you can look in the telephone book white pages or go on-line to: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh and then click on the "County Offices" link. Then click on the county where the land is located.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland (W) Compliance

Producers intending to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will make HEL and wetland technical determinations. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements per their conservation plan. Failure to obtain ADVANCE approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all federal payments.

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.