

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SHELBY COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE  
820 FAIR ROAD  
SIDNEY OHIO 45365-2969

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
USDA-FSA



Shelby County FSA  
820 Fair Road  
Sidney, OH 45365  
937-492-6520  
937-492-7604 (Fax)

**Office Hours**  
8:00am to 4:30pm  
Monday—Friday

**FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE**  
Patty Mann, Chairperson  
Dale Covault, V-Chairperson  
Jayne Knouff, Member

**SERVICE CENTER PERSONNEL**  
Lucinda Bowman  
Angie Brocius  
Judy Stephenson  
Amy Gehret  
Janelle Lowry  
Ruby Long

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
**DIRECTOR**  
Roger L. Lentz

**FIELD REPORTERS**  
Urban Holthaus  
Hazel Barhorst

**Dates to Remember**

- 05/25 FSA Office closed-- Memorial Day**
- 06/01 Deadline to request 2008 crop Soybeans or Corn Loan**
- 06/30 Final day to timely report small grain acres (wheat, barley, and oats)**
- 07/04 FSA Office closed-- Independence Day**
- 07/15 Reporting deadline for all other 2009 planted acreages and land use, including CRP**
- 07/26 Shelby County Fair 07/31**
- 08/03 Deadline for LAA#1 Nominations**
- 08/14 DCP—ACRE Enrollment Deadline**

United States Department of Agriculture  
**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**  
**Shelby County**  
**Newsletter** April 14, 2009

**DCP—ACRE ENROLLMENT**

**Sign-up extended to August 14, 2009**

**2009 DCP Enrollment**

Sign-up for participation in the Direct Countercyclical Payment (DCP) program continues for this current year. An annual enrollment is required to qualify for program benefits.

DCP participation includes a guaranteed direct payment and possible countercyclical compensation in the event the market price of wheat, oats soybeans or corn decline below established levels. Producers must timely enroll by **August 14, 2009** to participate. After this date a \$100 per farm administrative fee will be imposed.

Payment rates and compensation will be calculated at 83.3% (previously 85%) of the crop acreage bases(s) for the farm. A 22% advance payment may be requested for disbursement in any designated month through September. The final 2009 DCP payment will be disbursed in October.

You may first enroll in DCP, receive advance direct payments and then later switch to the ACRE program benefits.

**Average Crop Revenue Election Program**

Initial information indicates the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program could be soon available for producers to consider enrollment. This program is an option to the Direct Counter cyclical Payment (DCP) program and authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. Enrollment is scheduled through **August 14, 2009**.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are authorized when both a state and farm level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20 percent reduction in direct payments and a 30 percent reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds a farm to the program through the 2012 crop year and also must be approved by the landowner(s).

Crop insurance is not required for ACRE participation.

Producers must provide acceptable yield documentation for ACRE to the County office for crop year's 2004-2008. This five year yield data will establish the farms ACRE benchmark for the "farm trigger" portion of the program.

**Office Appointment**

An appointment is required for enrollment in either DCP or ACRE. Please contact the County Office to schedule an appointment.

**Preventing Fraud**

FSA cooperates with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Our agency has been, and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers may report suspected cases to the County Office staff, RMA Office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

**USDA Hotline**

**ANY** criminal activity, bribery, smuggling, theft, fraud, endangerment of public health or safety, mismanagement, conflict of interest, etc. may be reported directly to the USDA Office of the Inspector General OIG Telephone (800) 424-9121 or write;

United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of Inspector General  
PO Box 23399  
Washington, D.C. 20026-3399

**FSA Mission**

The Farm Service Agency ensures the well-being of American agriculture, our environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of numerous farm programs.

These programs include commodities, farm ownership, operating and emergency loans, conservation and environmental programs, emergency and disaster assistance, domestic and international food assistance,

**FSA Loan Programs**

New federal programs have been enacted to benefit beginning and young farmers, including socially disadvantaged producers to establish new or retain ownership of existing, small family farms.

The farming industry has undergone many changes in recent years, resulting in new types of small farming enterprises. These include value-added farming operations, organic farming and growing crops for local retailers or direct sale to consumers.

Our service extends beyond the typical loan, offering our customers ongoing consultation, advice and creative methods to allow their farm businesses to thrive. This could include referring producers to other public and commercial financial aid sources that may serve as a blend with an FSA loan. For complete details and information contact Marla Koerner or Tina Mellinger at (419) 586-3149.

**Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvements Loan Guarantee Program**

USDA's Rural Development Agency administers a guarantee loan program to assist rural small business and agricultural producers to purchase and install renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements to an existing facility. A "guaranteed loan" shall not exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs. For program details;  
Rural Development  
200 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 453215  
Telephone: (614) 255-2424

**Ag Fact**

95% of the world's population resides outside of our

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# Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

Additional details and initiatives authorized by the 2008 farm legislation include;

## SURE Program

The new farm legislation authorizes permanent disaster legislation and is designated as the Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance program. SURE is effective for years 2008-2012. To qualify, producers **must** purchase crop insurance or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops of "economic significance". Economic significance is defined as crop(s) that contribute more than 5% to the farms total annual revenue.

NAP crops include hay, rye, pumpkins, triticale, etc.

## 2008 Insurance "Buy-in"

A waiver has been authorized to allow producers to pay a "buy-in" fee for SURE crops in the event that a producer did not purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for 2008. This provision does not apply to the Livestock Forage Disaster program.

The fee is \$100 per crop for insurable an/or non-insurable crops not to exceed \$300 per producer per producer per county or \$900 for multi-county producers. **May 18, 2009** is the deadline for the "buy-in". Contact FSA for complete details.

## Livestock/Tree Disaster Programs

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Compensation could be approved for livestock death losses due to adverse weather during a calendar year.

### Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

LFP authorizes a grazing loss payment for producers that insured the acreage with NAP coverage. The loss must be attributed to drought.

### Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

Emergency relief for producers of eligible livestock, honey bees, and farm raised fish for losses due to adverse weather or other conditions.

### Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Assistance to growers of orchard/nursery/fruit/nut crops and Christmas trees (commercial use) for losses due to adverse conditions. NAP coverage must have been purchased.

## Farm Operating Plan

A farm operating plan shall be submitted to FSA for program participation. These forms include;

- CCC-902I—Individual Producer
- CCC902E—Partnerships, Corporations, Limited Liability Company, etc.

## Average Adjusted Gross Income

Form CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement must be submitted to FSA and certify yearly income from one of three qualifying levels, beginning in 2009. These income levels include;

\$500,000 Avg. Adjusted Gross <i>Non-farm</i> Income	Exceed this – ineligible for any commodity & disaster program benefits
\$750,000 Avg. Adjusted Gross <i>Farm</i> Income	Exceed this – ineligible for DCP Direct Payments.
\$1,000,000 Avg. Adjusted Gross <i>Non-Farm</i> Income	Exceed this – ineligible for Conservation programs, <u>unless</u> <u>66.66% or more</u> of AGI is average adjusted gross <u>farm</u> income.

## Payment Eligibility & Payment Limitation

Limitations by direct attribution to each person or legal entity include:

PROGRAM	LIMIT	PROGRAM	LIMIT
DCP Direct	\$40,000	SURE,LIP, LFP,ELAP	\$1,000,000
CC- ACRE	\$65,000	CRP-annual rent	\$50,000
NAP	\$100,000	LDP-Market Gain	unlimited
TAP	\$100,000		

## Farm Reconstitution

Requests for a farm reconstitution (combining and/or dividing) effective for a 2009 program year may be submitted to the County Office at anytime. Authorization to combine farms with smaller base acres (10 acres or less and with owner approval) has been approved by USDA. Producers are required to visit the FSA office to initiate a farm reconstitution.

## Administrative County Office

FSA procedure allows a producer to request a change or designation of the FSA County Office where the farm is administered. The request to move the farm records could be approved only one time. The landowner must also agree in writing to this action. Contact the County Office for complete details.

## MILC Program

A Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) subsidy payment is authorized whenever the monthly Boston Class I milk price declines below \$16.94 per hundredweight and adjusted for feed costs.

The February MILC rate is **\$1.51 cwt.**

Participating MILC producers are reminded to submit the monthly milk settlement statements to the FSA office.

## Soybean/Corn Loan

The final date to apply for a 2008 crop soybean or corn 9-month commodity loan is **Monday, June 1**. A quantity for the loan program may be certified by the producer or measured by the FSA field reporter for a nominal fee.

## Release of Mortgaged Grain

Authorization to move or release grain, mortgaged by the Commodity Credit Corporation, must be approved by FSA prior to the transport for sale, feeding, seed cleaning etc. or movement of the loan quantity from bin to bin. A release may be granted for either a 15 or 30 day period and may be requested by telephone. Subsequent release periods may be approved after the initial release period expires.

CCC must be reimbursed prior to the feeding of any mortgaged commodity.

## Measurement Services

FSA offers measurement services to requesting producers. A base rate of \$30.00 plus \$16.00 for the first hour on the farm will be charged. A fee of \$8.00 will be assessed for each additional half hour. This could include measuring grain bins, structures, etc. and ground measurements for Conservation Programs and other field acreage determinations.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Low interest rate loans are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities. The program authorizes a 7-year loan to purchase and install storage structures, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment or remodel/enlarge existing facilities.

The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per producer.

**FSA Website**  
www.fsa.usda.gov

## CRP Practices

Several practices may be enrolled under the provision of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP "continuous sign-up". These include the CP-21 filter strip program for croplands along open ditches and the CP-33, field border or "quail-buffer" program. Up to 120 feet of width may be enrolled around cropland in a field and especially along woodlots.

The spring-summer season is an excellent time to construct grass waterways. Cost-sharing for this practice, applied on eligible cropland, could be approved for up to 90% of the costs incurred for construction and seeding.

Producers are encouraged to contact the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District Office, NRCS district Conservationist, Richard Bruns, or the Farm Service Agency for waterway project scheduling and CRP sign-up provisions.

## CRP Maintenance

Producers with land (farms, fields, filter strips, quail buffers, waterways) enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, must properly establish and maintain protective cover at all times. After the seeding year "cosmetic" or periodic mowing is prohibited.

CRP areas **shall not** be mowed or clipped during the primary wildlife-nesting season (March 1 – July 15) **EXCEPT** to control noxious weeds (Canada thistle Johnson grass, poison hemlock, wild mustard, etc) or other severe weed infestations. A producer must request permission (written or telephone) to mow or spot treat noxious weeds during the nesting period.

The County Office should be notified upon completion of the spot mowing or spraying operation.

## Land Use Changes

**Any** change of land use (cropland to non-ag, clearing of fencerows, building lots, etc.) should be reported to FSA prior to implementing the change. Form AD-1026 is required to be properly completed to document these actions.

## Ending Planting Date

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has established the ending planting dates for insured 2009 crops. These include;

**Corn—June 5    Soybeans—June 20**

Corn and soybeans planted after these dates may be insurable but at a reduced rate.