



# Wyandot FSA News

July 2009

## County Committee Elections

### “FSA Counts on You”

**Through August 3, 2009**, farmers can nominate eligible candidates for election to Wyandot County FSA Committee. Each year, an election is held in an area to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. An election will be held for Wyandot Co. Committee position in LAA # 1, which includes Ridge, Crawford, Tymochtee and Sycamore townships. Currently serving as elected county committee representative in LAA #1 is Charles Bigler. Wyandot County FSA committee members are Jerry Murphy - Chairperson, Charles Bigler – Vice Chairperson, Henry Bills – Member, Connie Iles – Advisor.

Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at Wyandot County FSA office at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh).

County committee members make decisions that have significant effects on the area’s agricultural sector. Example: committee members make determinations on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments as well as other program related decisions.

Talk to the Wyandot County Committee or Vicki Orians, Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit Elections website to learn more about the process, or read over fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to FSA by close of business on **August 3**, or postmarked by midnight **August 3, 2009**. Voting will be in the fall. Ballots are mailed to eligible voters **November 6**. Last day to return voted ballots to the county office is **December 7, 2009**. Newly elected committee member will take office **January 1, 2010**.

### Final Acreage Reporting Dates

Wyandot Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged. Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **recently extended deadline of August 14, 2009**, final reporting date for wheat, corn, soybeans and acreage enrolled in Conservation Reserve.

## Acreage Reporting/continued

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses or damages to crops must be timely reported after each disaster occurrence to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

To better serve you, we ask that you fill out your maps with the crop planted in each field along with the planting date, tillage method, acreage and shares. Please also include a phone number at the top of the maps so we can contact you when your certification is ready for your signature.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs (including new Average Crop Revenue Election-ACRE and permanent disaster under Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program-SURE).

### Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP and CREP acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All CRP and CREP maintenance activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season is **March 1 through July 15<sup>th</sup>**. Spot treatment of the acreage to control noxious and invasive species may be allowed during the primary nesting season if prior approval is received from FSA County Committee. Just phone the office to obtain CRP spot mowing or spot spraying permission.

### Conservation Reserve Program

Practices for this essential conservation set-aside program are water-ways, filter strips with other options in Wyandot Co. Making an appointment is necessary. Consultation with our USDA partners at Natural Resources Conservation Service and Wyandot Soil and Water Conservation District will assist you in knowing the location (waterway) or width (filter strip) where your CRP acreage will be located.

Wyandot County  
USDA Service Center

Wyandot County FSA  
97 Houpt Drive, B  
Upper Sandusky, OH  
419-294-2127 (phone)  
419-294-2474 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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

County Committee  
Jerry Murphy  
Charles Bigler  
Henry Bills  
Connie Iles

County Committee  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Monthly at 8:00 am

Staff  
Vicki D. Orians, CED  
Brenda Blair  
Rinda Kraus  
Deb Mullholand  
Susan Sampson  
Brent Gottfried  
Deb Rickle  
Joel Castanien  
Dave Demler  
Kelby Weaver



## Marketing Assistance Loans

9-month commodity loans for wheat, soybeans, corn, and oats can be disbursed by the FSA to generate cash at harvest so growers can assess marketing options during the period of a Commodity Credit Corporation Loan. Wyandot County 2009 loan rates are Wheat \$1.96/bu; Corn \$1.94/bu; Soybeans \$5.12/bu; and Oats \$1.36/bu. Prior to disbursement, please provide bin measurements and plan to make an appointment with the staff.

## Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

Summer heat has arrived, with producers having CCC loan grain reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality. Remember to contact your local FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

## 2009 Uniform Grain Storage Policy

Regulation governing Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) was amended with a new policy for commercial storage. This regulatory change eliminated the requirement for public warehouses to execute a Uniform Grain & Rice Storage Agreement (UGRSA).

Commodities covered in Ohio by a UGRSA include: wheat, barley, oats, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, sesame seed, dry peas, lentils and small and large chickpeas. A commodity **not covered** in Ohio by a UGRSA includes sugar for which Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has a separate storage agreement. CCC reserves the right to execute a UGRSA if necessary to protect CCC's interests. Storage deductions will no longer be applied at loan making.

Ohio has an operating warehouse licensing program and warehouse operators **will not** be required to execute a UGRSA for MAL loan-making purposes. For more information about the Uniform Grain and Rice Storage Agreements, contact your local FSA office.

### DATES 2009 – ALSO NOTE REMINDERS Pg. 4

ACRE Meeting 8 am USHS	July 14
ACRE Meeting 7 pm Recycle Ctr	July 14
Deadline to request reconstitution	August 1
Nomination Deadline for County Committee Candidate - LAA #1	August 3
Last opportunity to Elect ACRE and to Enroll ACRE or DCP	August 14
Acreage reporting deadline <b>extended</b> for Corn, Soybeans, CRP acres - 2009	August 14
Office Closed for Labor Day	Sept. 7
Visit USDA Service Center booth display at Wyandot County Fair	Sept. 15-20

## 2009 Wheat National Loan Rates

Commodity Credit Corporation will determine and publish an average Posted County Price (PCP) based on average market prices during the preceding 30 calendar days of loan availability. For wheat, the method will reflect a 30 calendar-day moving average of all terminal market prices for a specific class, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national average loan rate by class and county loan rate by class. 2009 national average loan rate for Soft Red Winter wheat is \$1.98. Wyandot Co. 2009 SRW loan rate is \$1.96.

The 30 calendar day PCP has reflected the 2009 crop wheat National average loan rates by class since May 1, 2009. For more information about the wheat loan rates visit your local FSA office, or to view the information electronically by state & county go to the website: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/2009wheatbyclasslr.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2009wheatbyclasslr.pdf). Once the information is displayed, scroll down the bookmark section on the left side of the document and click on the "State=Ohio" bookmark.

## 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.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- 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 town of 50,000 people or less;
- 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.

Contact FSA at 419-294-2127 for an appointment with the area Loan Approval Official.

## 2009 Compliance Spot-Check Reviews

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the operation. FSA will review accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs, as well as the producer's compliance with program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local FSA office for additional clarification.

## DCP and ACRE News

The deadline to enroll in Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is **August 14, 2009**. Producers can still elect to get an advance payment of 22% and final payments will be issued after October 1. The DCP program is available from 2009-2012.

DCP payments are calculated using base acreage and payment yields that have been established for each farm. To be eligible, producers must satisfy the following: have a risk in producing a crop that is planted on base acres; report on form FSA-578 annually; and comply with highly erodible and wetland rules.

Stop by Wyandot County FSA for more information and learn how your operation can benefit from this program.

## ACRE Frequently Asked Questions

### ► What is ACRE?

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is an alternative to the Counter-Cyclical (CC) payments that are issued through DCP. This program can be used as a risk management tool. Unlike CC payments where payments are based on market prices, ACRE payments are issued when revenue levels are low. The program is currently available now through 2012.

### ► How are payments issued?

Payments are made when both the state and farm level triggers are met. The trigger is met if revenue is below the historical state average and the producer's farm average. ACRE payments are based on producer's current plantings on each farm.

### ► How do I enroll?

All producers and owners on the farm must sign a CCC-509 ACRE, *Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program Irrevocable Election* to enroll in the program. Keep in mind, once a farm is elected in ACRE it will remain in the program until 2012.

### ► When is the deadline?

The deadline for 2009 enrollment is **August 14, 2009**.

### ► What are the requirements to participate?

- There is a 20% reduction on direct (guaranteed) payments and a 30% reduction on marketing loan rates for those enrolled in ACRE.
- Farm must have base history acreage established.
- Producers must have a risk in the crop planted.
- Participants must report crops & yields annually.
- Producers must comply with HELC and WC provisions (Sodbuster-Swampbuster).
- To start in ACRE, 5 years' production evidence is needed, or producer may elect to use the county yield average for a relevant commodity.

### Where can I find more information?

Stop by the Wyandot County FSA, where producers can discuss any questions and go over the ACRE calculator.

In addition, the Wyandot County FSA is holding **two ACRE meetings on Tuesday, July 14:**

- **8:00 AM** in Upper Sandusky High School Auditorium
- **7:00 PM** at Wyandot County Solid Waste-Recycling, 11329 Co. Highway 4, north of Lovell

## Special Accommodations

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Vicki D. Orians, CED at 419-294-2127, or contact Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, or send a message by email to vicki.oriens@oh.usda.gov by July 10, 2009.

## DCP Farms - Less than 10 acres Base

Before the **August 14, 2009** deadline, if your farm has less than 10 acres DCP base, rules for qualifying with socially disadvantaged status have relaxed, so you may qualify with 50-50% ownership if one farm owner is a woman. Owner will need to sign the DCP contract at the FSA.

## County Operations Trainees in Wyandot Co.

Wyandot County FSA is serving as a training county for the County Operations Trainee (COT) program where individuals selected for this managerial training will travel across Ohio to study USDA farm programs, leadership skills, and FSA office operations. After completion of this year long study, these individuals will be candidates for County Executive Directors with FSA offices. Welcome Molly Stidham and Katie Thobe to our office as they study Compliance, DCP and ACRE programs.

Molly Stidham graduated from Purdue University, with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communication, and then worked for Purdue as a writer and web editor. Molly accepted a position as a Marketing Coordinator for Univertical Corporation, where she developed and edited a new website and edited literature handouts that focused on key products and services. Since 2006, Molly has worked with FSA as a Program Technician for Marshall County, in Plymouth, Indiana where she administered the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Payment Limitation (PL), and has experience with Common Programs (CP) and Compliance. Molly grew up on a grain and livestock farm in South Charleston, Ohio.

Katie Thobe graduated from OSU, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. She began her career working for ADM Alliance Nutrition, as a field sales representative who provided consulting services for dairy farms and feed dealers. Katie continued at Wright State University and in August 2009 will graduate with a MBA. Also, at WSU, she serves as an Adjunct Faculty member assisting faculty to develop the first agriculture program. Katie grew up on a grain, beef, and equine operation in Knox County. Katie and her husband, own a custom farming operation in Mercer County, providing custom bailing and combining and also contracting finishing hogs, raising dairy beef steers, and producing corn, beans, and wheat.

REMINDERS – ALSO SEE DATES Pg. 2	
RECORDS	Co-owner spouse on farm records has advantages at death (Call FSA)
SPOUSES	If ownership is joint, request to add spouse as co-owner (See DCP, Pg.3)
LAND USE CHANGES	Report boundary changes, lots sold, cropland changes promptly to FSA
MILC	Milk payments are determined by dairy production (end of month) records being provided to FSA timely
LIP	Livestock Indemnity Program compensates for death losses (weather)
LFP	Livestock Forage program authorizes grazing drought loss payment if acreage is insured through NAP
ELAP	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program offers relief on loss of eligible livestock, honey bees, and farm raised fish
TAP	Tree Assistance program assists growers with NAP insurance for orchard, nursery, fruit/nut crops and commercial Christmas trees losses
ONGOING	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
ONGOING	CRP, CREP and SAFE enrollment

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