Wyandot FSA News

April 2010

Wyandot **County USDA Service Center**

Wyandot County FSA
97 Houpt Drive, B
Upr. Sandusky, OH 43351
419-294-2127 (phone)
419-294-2474(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

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

County Committee
Jerry Murphy, Chr
Chuck Bigler, V. Chr
Henry Bils
Connie Iles, Advisor

County Committee meets 8 AM monthly on third Wednesday

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

The ACRE Program

The ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010 deadline to sign-up is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. A payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. Participants in ACRE will forego counter-cyclical payments. Also a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20% and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. For more details contact your local FSA office.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our local 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 2010 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

SURE

Currently applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that were incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

To trigger a SURE payment, participants must have at least one crop of economic significance suffer a 10% production loss due by comparing the actual production on the SURE farm to that crop, and have either of the following:

- a portion of the SURE farm located in a natural disaster county designated by the Secretary, including contiguous counties; or
- an overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected revenue for the farm for that crop year.

For more information about SURE, visit the National FSA SURE website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA and then click on the *"Disaster Assistance Programs"* link and then select the *"Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)"* link under the *"Related Topics"* to read the factsheet or visit their local FSA office.

Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2009 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be June 1, 2010.**

Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting here, the Wyandot County Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

"It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction," said Wyandot County Executive Director, Vicki Orians. "This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments."

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. To be eligible for crop disaster programs in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting your local FSA office. FSA program information is also available online at: http://www/fsa/usda/gov .

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	4.000%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

2010 DCP Sign-up

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of eDCP automated website to sign-up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and must be
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used, or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is $500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact your local FSA county office or http://www.fsa.usda.gov.

Continued Success on the Family Farm through Ohio AgrAbility

By Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator / OSU Ag Safety and Health

It is not a surprise that farming consistently ranks as one of Ohio's most dangerous occupations. And with Ohio's 77,000 farms, agriculture is the largest industry in the state. Because of the size of the agricultural industry and the hazards associated with it, each year agricultural workers in Ohio experience injuries that limit their ability to perform essential tasks.

At OSU Ag Safety and Health, the highest priority is injury prevention. However, what happens if there has been an incident that leaves a farmer questioning their ability to continue farming because of an injury, disability or chronic illness? OSU Ag Safety and Health is proud to have a program that addresses that issue. In September 2009, Ohio State University Extension introduced the Ohio AgrAbility Program, to assist farmers who are facing obstacles on the farm due to an injury or illness.

Ohio AgrAbility is part of a national program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that promotes independence for people in agriculture who want to continue to farm after experiencing a disabling condition. OSU Extension has partnered with Easter Seals Work Resource Center to help bring this program to farmers and farm families at a local level. The partnership combines resources, knowledge, and outreach to bridge the gap between individuals in agricultural and the resources, technical assistance, assistive technologies and services available throughout the state that will enable the farmer, their families, and their communities to continue to succeed in rural Ohio.

The mission of the program is to enable a high quality of life for farmers by advancing efforts to address a wide variety of disabling conditions faced by many working in agriculture, including brain or spinal cord injuries, back pain or injury, amputations, visual or hearing impairments, disabling diseases, respiratory problems, repetitive motion injuries, diabetes, and arthritis.

The program provides several "no cost" services to farmers and agricultural communities. For local farmers, services include providing technical assistance or on-site assessments, provide training on preventing secondary injuries, initiating peer support, and providing information and referral materials about services available for agricultural assistance and rehabilitation. For the agricultural community, the primary focus is providing direct education and initiating community programs with local civic organizations, health care providers, agricultural business and educational institutions.

Two key elements to the success of the on-site assessments and technical assistance for the farmers are utilizing assistive technologies and applying universal design concepts to the farm. With both of these elements, the program is solving problems a farmer with a limitation may be facing. In many cases solving these problems can increase efficiency, productivity, and safety for the farmer.

A fundamental component of the program is preventing secondary injuries, and increasing awareness to these injuries on the farm. Farmers often face aches / pains, an injury or even a disability as a part of every day life. Farming with these limitations can increase risk in an already dangerous occupation and lead to secondary injuries. In simple terms, secondary injuries can be defined as injuries resulting from a previous injury. Often these secondary injuries occur because the farmer may attempt work tasks that exceed his/her abilities.

On a national level, AgrAbility helps over 1500 farmers and ranchers each year. In the first six months since establishing the program in Ohio, 12 farmers have been enrolled in the program and received on site assessments and technical assistance to increase quality of life by empowering the farmer to be more productive. At the same time, many individuals have contacted the program to simply receive resources or information about solving specific problems they are facing on the farm.

For more information contact the Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator – Kent McGuire at The Ohio State University (614-292-0588) (Email: agrability@osu.edu). Additional information about AgrAbility can be found at: www.agrability.org .

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.

- 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 in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- 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.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. Loan approval officers are based in Logan County and are happy to meet you at your farm or at the Wyandot County FSA office.

Wyandot County FSA Office
97 Houpt Drive, Suite B
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0211-0211A_081217V02.pdf .

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options your can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
June 1	Deadline to apply for 2009 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 1	**Deadline** to sign-up for 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 15	Deadline to submit the CCC-927 and CCC-928 consent forms to the IRS.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

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