



# Wyandot FSA News

July 2010

## FSA COC Nomination Date Near

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate to represent Local Area #3 (Jackson, Mifflin, Marseilles, Antrim and Pitt townships) by the **August 2, 2010, deadline.**

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office. You may also go on-line and download the form from our Ohio FSA website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh). The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 2, 2010. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers. FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 5, 2010. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 6, 2010.

## 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.

## County Committee Meetings

The four-member Wyandot County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a month. The committee has established 8:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month as its regular meeting time with Upper Sandusky USDA Service Center, FSA office as its meeting place. We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule the time or place of its next meeting. **County committee members are:** Chairman Jerry Murphy, representing Richland, Salem, Crane and Eden townships; Chuck Bigler, representing Ridge, Crawford, Tymochtee and Sycamore townships; Henry Bills, representing Jackson, Marseilles, Pitt and Antrim townships. Connie Iles serves as County Committee advisor.

## Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners and operators who are willing to sell or lease Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or minority farmers. The Transition Incentive Program (TIP) provides annual rental payments to the retired or retiring landowners for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Sign-up for the new TIP program began in May, at local FSA offices.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or minority farmer to make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or minority farmer by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

The program was created by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill in a bid to help beginning and minority farmers get over one of the biggest hurdles they face - finding affordable land. Ohio has approximately 32,826 acres expiring from CRP over the next two years. To learn more about the TIP program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA FSA county office or to read the TIP Factsheet visit:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/tip051410.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tip051410.pdf) .

### 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Jerry Murphy  
Chuck Bigler  
Henry Bills  
Connie Iles

County Committee  
meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Monthly at 8 am

### Staff

Vicki D. Orians, CEEd  
Brenda Blair  
Rinda Kraus  
Deb Mullholand  
Brent Gottfried  
Susan Sampson  
Joel Castanien  
Dave Demler  
Kelby weaver



Selected Interest Rates for July 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

## SURE Program

Applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are still 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](http://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 the local FSA office.

## CRP PHEASANT PRACTICE (SAFE) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement

Wyandot and other Ohio landowners in designated geographical areas will have the opportunity to offer cropland for enrollment in a new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program pheasant practice entitled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38E-4D. Pheasant SAFE **sign-up began in May** and will be on a continuous (ongoing) basis in all or portions of the following counties: Champaign, Defiance, Fayette, Hardin, Highland (partial), Logan, Marion (partial), Pickaway, Ross (partial), Seneca, Union, and Wyandot (partial). Map is available to show where each Pheasant SAFE practice is eligible for enrollment.

Pheasant SAFE utilizes a wildlife management practice specifically developed by conservation organizations and agencies located within Ohio to establish and restore habitats to support *declining* populations of game bird species and specifically targeting declining pheasant and quail populations in areas of greatest impact.

Offers for enrollment in Pheasant SAFE practices may be made at any of the above FSA County offices in which the land is located. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers under this practice are not subject to competitive bidding; however, Ohio is limited to enrollment of no more than 5,600 acres on a 1st come, 1st served basis. Pheasant SAFE contracts are 10-15 years in duration.

All CP38E-4D practices receive a Signing Incentive Payment equal to \$100 per acre, **50%** cost share assistance for eligible practice establishment costs, a Practice Incentive Payment equal to **40%** of eligible establishment costs, and annual rental payments. Annual rental payments are based on the three predominant cropland soils to determine the rental rate per acre.

Technical assistance will be provided by Federal, State and private professionals to help participants select proper seed species, locate practice area, and establish and manage the practice cover. Seed mixes for the practice cover will be specifically designed to attract and benefit pheasants and other grassland game species.

For more information on Ohio's Pheasant SAFE project, visit your local FSA Service Center office or go online to read the factsheet at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh).

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## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing an eligible commodity. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the eligible commodity.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

FSA offers MALs on honey, wool & mohair, an assortment of grains, and other approved agricultural commodities.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing incorrect quantity certification.

For more details on marketing assistance loans contact your local FSA office.

## Loans Wheat Contaminated w. Vomitoxin

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), reports that Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through County FSA offices, will make Marketing Assistance Loans on 2010 crop year wheat contaminated with Vomitoxin. The loans carry a nine month term and can be repaid anytime during the nine month term. The loan rate in Wyandot County for Soft Red Winter wheat is \$1.87 per bushel, and varies by county and by variety. The contaminated wheat may be stored on the farm or in a state licensed commercial warehouse.

Vomitoxin has been detected in the 2010 crop year wheat in some areas of the state. Loans may be requested on 2010 crop year wheat through March 31, 2011. The loan interest is 1.375% for loans disbursed in July 2010. A favorable interest is announced for each calendar month.

Interest will initially accrue at the rate in effect for the month of disbursement, and change on January 1 of the following year. Wheat producers should note that CCC Marketing Assistance Loans provide a valuable marketing tool for 2010 production.

For more information about Marketing Assistance Loans, visit your local FSA office.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts with the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing records for farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, reconstitutions must be requested by **August 2** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm reconstitution:

- **Estate Method** — division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, reconstitutions must be requested **by August 2** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## 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 you 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	
July 5	Independence Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
July 15	2008 Late-filed acreage reports for permanent disaster program SURE will no longer be without administrative fees
Aug. 2	<b>Final date</b> to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 2	<b>Last day</b> to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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