



# Wyandot FSA News

August 2010

## CRP General Sign-up

USDA will offer a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through August 27, 2010. During the sign-up period, farmers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their local FSA office.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to be effective Oct. 1, 2010.

FSA implements CRP on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air, and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers. Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up.

For more information on CRP, contact your local FSA office, or visit FSA's website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> or to view the General CRP sign-up factsheet go to: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/crp\\_signup39\\_072610.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_signup39_072610.pdf) .

## ACRE Yield Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2009 production certification to comply with ACRE has been extended **to Sept. 1, 2010**. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2004 through 2008) and the actual farm yield (2009). Participants in 2009 ACRE program must certify yields by September 1, 2010 to remain eligible for ACRE benefits. Contact the local FSA office for further information.

## 2008 Sure Deadline to Apply for Payments Announced

Producers have until Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, to submit an application for payment under the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. **There are no provisions for late-file applications.** Applications not filed by COB September 30, 2010, regardless of the reasons why, will not receive a payment because of lack of funding. SURE provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster.

Producers need to be aware of this deadline so they are certain to visit their FSA county office to file a 2008 SURE program payment application no later than September, 30, 2010. It is important to finish the current 2008 SURE program sign-up because the authority for the Recovery Act supplement for payment benefits expires at the end of the current fiscal year and the Department of Agriculture will then start 2009 SURE sign-up application process.

FSA began accepting and processing 2008 SURE program applications in January 2010, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) allowed for a one-time increase in the calculation of 2008 SURE payments that are filed by Sept. 30, 2010. Producers who do not file a 2008 SURE program payment application by Sept. 30, 2010, will not be considered eligible for 2008 SURE program payments.

Producers are encouraged to file an application for 2008 SURE payments regardless of whether they think they may or may not qualify. Additional information regarding the SURE program is located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/sure> or producers can contact their local FSA office.

### 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  
Chuck Bigler  
Henry Bils  
Connie Iles, Advisor

County Committee  
meets 8 AM monthly  
Third Wednesdays,

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



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## Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Lamb Producers and Associations

The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) accepted and began a review of a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) under the Fiscal Year 2011 Program lamb producers in Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

The petition filed under the FY 2011 Program by three lamb producers on behalf of lamb producers in Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming **began July 14, 2010** and groups interested in joining this petition must submit an *FAS-930* form to FAS **by August 9, 2010**.

### **All petitions must be filed:**

- by a group (3 or more persons, who are not family members) of agricultural commodity producers in the United States or authorized representative;
- on Form *FAS-930*, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Petition for Certification and Eligibility for a Group of Producers, or a petition that identifies required information as outlined in 7 CFR, 1580.203, and
- no later than **August 9, 2010**.

*FAS-930*'s forms are to be submitted using the following options:

### **Mail to:**

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Staff;  
Foreign Agricultural Service;  
Stop 1021;  
USDA;  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.;  
Washington, DC 20250-1021

Producers may also submit the *FAS-930* form by:

**FAX:** 202-720-0876

**EMAIL:** [tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov)

The Administrator will determine within 40 days whether or not increasing imports of lamb meat contributed importantly to a greater than 15% decrease in the production quantity of lambs compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years.

**More information:** Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Staff, FAS, USDA; Phone, 202-720-0638; or 202-690-0633; Email: [tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov) . To download the *FAS-930* form, go to: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taafoms.asp> .

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, eth-

nic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With the high temperatures this summer, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact your local FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

## Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store fresh fruits/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 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>.

## Attention Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Participants – A Word on Properly Maintaining your CRP Grass Cover

As a CRP participant you have agreed to establish and maintain CRP program acres according to the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) and the CRP-1 Appendix. You should have copies of both of these documents. If you don't have copies, contact the local FSA office and ask for copies.

Once the practice is established you are responsible for properly maintaining the cover to:

- Control noxious weeds, woody vegetation & invasive species; and
- Ensure erosion control.

Any activity to maintain your cover should not occur during the primary nesting season of March 1 through July 15<sup>th</sup>, however with the FSA County committee permission on file, controlling noxious weeds by spot mowing or spot spraying is encouraged. That doesn't mean you can cosmetically mow all the CRP acres.

Any activity to maintain CRP cover is limited to the area where treatment is needed to control erosion, noxious weeds, trees or other woody species, or invasive species. Treatment may involve re-seeding and leveling washed out areas, spot mowing or spot spraying to control unwanted vegetation only. Other than these activities the cover is encouraged to be left alone. The only exception is grass waterway practices which may be mowed at certain times according to the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). CRP practices not only help control erosion and improve water quality; they also are great habitat for wildlife, including bugs, bees, & birds. Disturbing the cover may reduce the effectiveness for wildlife and other purposes.

If you feel you need to conduct an activity that will disturb your CRP cover for reasons other than stated above, please contact this FSA Office to learn what penalties may be imposed for non-compliance violations or to discuss your CRP contractual agreement. Your CRP grass practice may not be a beautiful stand of solid grass but the diversity of a grass and forbs cover equally serves the purposes of erosion control and water quality and at the same time enhances wildlife habitat. In the case of CRP grass covers, sometimes doing less is better.

## Trade Adjustment Assistance for Wool Producers and Associations

The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) accepted and began a review of a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) under the Fiscal Year 2011 Program wool producers in Montana.

The petition filed under the FY 2011 Program by three wool producers on behalf of wool producers in Montana, **begun July 14, 2010** and groups interested in joining this petition must submit an

**FAS-930 form to FAS by August 10, 2010.**

### All petitions must be filed:

- by a group (3 or more persons, who are not family members) of agricultural commodity producers in the United States or authorized representative;
- on Form FAS-930, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Petition for Certification and Eligibility for a Group of Producers, or a petition that identifies required information as outlined in 7 CFR, 1580.203, and
- no later than **August 10, 2010.**

FAS-930's forms shall be submitted by any of the following options:

### Mail to:

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Staff;  
Foreign Agricultural Service;  
Stop 1021;  
USDA;  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.;  
Washington, DC 20250-1021

Producers may also submit the FAS-930 form by:

**FAX:** 202-720-0876

**EMAIL:** [tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov)

The Administrator will determine within 40 days whether or not increasing imports of wool contributed importantly to a greater than 15-percent decrease in average annual price of wool, quantity or production, value of production or cash receipts, compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years.

For further information contact: Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Staff, FAS, USDA; Phone, 202-720-0638; or 202-690-0633; Email:

[tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov](mailto:tradeadjustment@fas.usda.gov). To download the FAS-930 form, go to the FAS website at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaforms.asp>.

| Selected Interest Rates for August 2010              |        |
|--|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill                                 | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct                        | 2.500% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct                        | 4.625% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment | 1.500% |
| Emergency Loans                                      | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year                 | 2.500% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year                | 3.000% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year                | 3.375% |
| Sugar Storage Facility Loans                         | 3.625% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present                         | 1.250% |

## 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!

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 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.   |
| Aug. 27           | CRP General Sign-up #39 Ends.  |
| Aug. 31           | <b>Deadline</b> to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for value loss crops such as Aquaculture (fin-fish), Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod, and Watercress. |
| Sept. 1           | <b>Deadline</b> to submit the 2009 production certification to comply with the ACRE program.   |
| Sept. 6           | Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>  |
| Sept. 30          | <b>Deadline</b> to submit an application for payment for the 2008 SURE Program.  |
| Sept. 30          | <b>Deadline</b> to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.  |
| Oct. 11           | Columbus Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>   |
| Continues         | Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.  |
| Continues         | Continuous Conservation Reserve program.   |

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