



**WYANDOT
County
FSA Office**

97 Houpt Drive, B
Upper Sandusky, OH
43351

419-294-2127 phone
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

May 2012

County Office Staff
Vicki Dean Orians,
County Executive
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Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Deadline

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind Ohio producers who have not contacted their local FSA Office about DCP or ACRE enrollment to do so before the sign-up deadline ends. It is important producers contact their local FSA office to set up appointments before the June 1, 2012, deadline.

All signatures must be obtained by the deadline for both the DCP and ACRE programs. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the operator and owners of a farm to obtain and submit all necessary signatures on election and enrollment forms by the June 1, 2012, deadline.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to enroll in the DCP/ACRE programs, please contact the Wyandot county FSA office at 419-294-2127.

2010 SURE Sign-Up Deadline

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Eligible producers who suffered losses during the 2010 crop year are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program. FSA also has SURE information available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

Final Loan + LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2011 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be May 31, 2012**.

USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is celebrating the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 150th anniversary. USDA was founded May 15, 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Department of Agriculture Act that established the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Since the start, USDA has helped support the tremendous growth and success of American agriculture. FSA realizes that farmers and ranchers take risks everyday and FSA is looking forward to continue serving the producers while addressing the changing needs of agriculture and rural America.

Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

2012 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



The Wyandot County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the County Committee. This year LAA-1 will be having an election. LAA-1 is comprised of the following townships: Ridge, Crawford, Tymochtee and Sycamore. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Wyandot County FSA office. The form is also available online at the Ohio FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. The form is located under the "I Want To" section on the homepage.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate.

Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to Vicki Orians County Executive Director of Wyandot County FSA at 419-294-2127, or stop in the office located at 97 Houpt Drive, Upper Sandusky, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 1, 2012. Nomination forms for the 2012 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2012. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 5th and must be returned by December 3, 2012. The elected Committee Member and

Alternates will take office January 1, 2013. Currently serving are Jerry Murphy, Charles Bigler, Jim Kin and Connie Iles.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Reporting Crop Acreage

Please remember that 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.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire. 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.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc931>.

Mowing/Spraying CRP Acres

Wyandot County FSA Committee needs to provide authorization for CRP participants in 2011 to spot mow or spot spray CRP acreage during the primary nesting season, which ends July 15. Spot mowing or spraying authorization applies to maintenance prescribed by the Conservation Plan as well as for control of woody vegetation and noxious weeds **before weed seed develops**. Mowing is generally prohibited during primary nesting season for CRP acreage with non-weedy cover. Therefore, CRP established covers which do not contain noxious weeds or woody vegetation are encouraged **not** to be mowed or sprayed. Cosmetic mowing of CRP acreage is discouraged in the interest of protecting wildlife habitat. Monetary penalties can be assessed, if your CRP cover is not properly maintained.

Consult your conservation plan, the primary guide when deciding about individual mowing or spraying your individual CRP cover. Mowing and spraying could be prescribed by the conservation plan developed with Natural Resources Conservation Services, District Conservationist. **MOWING OR SPRAYING MAY BE REQUIRED WHEN YOUR CONSERVATION PLAN SPECIFIES MOWING OR SPRAYING BE COMPLETED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PRACTICE AND ESPECIALLY BEFORE NOXIOUS WEED SEED DEVELOPS.** **EXAMPLE:** Grass Waterways must be properly maintained (seeded, mowed, sprayed, etc.) especially in the development phase. For propagation of the waterway cover, this requires mowing or spraying be performed according to a recommended schedule, discouraging weeds from inhibiting desired grass species. Phone 419-294-2127 (FSA) or 419-294-2311 (NRCS) for guidance, especially for filter strips, quail buffers.

Noxious weeds and woody vegetation must be controlled on CRP acreage and recreational (cosmetic) mowing is prohibited. Prohibited Noxious Weeds in Ohio are the following varieties: **Canada Thistle, Cress leaf Groundsel, Grapevines, Johnson-Grass, Mile-a-Minute Weed, Musk Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Poison Hemlock, Purple Loosestrife, Russian thistle, Shatter Cane, Wild Carrot, Mustard, and Parsnip.**

CRP mowing and spraying restrictions have been implemented to protect wildlife during this critical time period. Please contact FSA at (419) 294-2127, so permission can be on file with your CRP contract **prior to mowing or spraying** CRP acreage.

March MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of March. USDA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations.

The MILC payment trigger price of \$16.94 is adjusted upward when the National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for a month is greater than \$7.35 per cwt. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service releases the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost monthly. Using this information, the MILC payment trigger for the month of March has been adjusted to \$16.94, for a final MILC payment rate of \$0.8262432 per hundredweight.

For more information about the MILC program, please visit your local FSA office or go online to: www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/milc2011.pdf.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans -- Direct	1.500%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct	3.500%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Farm Loans-Socially Disadvantaged

Wyandot County Executive Director, Vicki Orians, reminds interested applicants that FSA offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,214,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers

who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

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.

Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC)

Producers intending to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will make HEL and wetland technical determinations. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements per their conservation plan. Failure to obtain ADVANCE approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all federal payments.

Dates to Remember	
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2011 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 1	Deadline to sign-up for 2012 ACRE and Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.
June 1	Deadline to sign-up for the 2010 SURE program.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."