

July 2014



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Wyandot County Ohio FSA Updates

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County Committee:
Jerry Murphy, Chairman
Chuck Bigler, Vice Chairman
Henry Bils, member
Connie Iles, advisor

**Next County Committee
Meeting: August 28, 2014**

Farm Bill Implementation Forum Planned for Farmers July 25

The Ohio Farmers Union along with POET Biorefining, Superior Energy Solutions and First Federal Bank will hold a Farm Bill Implementation Forum on **July 25, 2014 at Bowling Green State University (BGSU).**

The farm bill forum will discuss the Price Loss Coverage, or PLC, a price-based assistance program and the Agricultural Risk Coverage, or ARC, a farm revenue-based program.

The goal for the forum is to bring together a group of experts who can speak to the changes in farm policy and place the new programs and their implications in the context of the family farm.

The forum will be held **July 25, 1 p.m. at BGSU, Bowen-Thompson Student Union in the Grand Ball Room.** There will be a panel presentation and time for questions and answers from those attending.

Panelists include:

- Joe Shultz, Chief Economist, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
- Jonathan McCracken, Legislative Agriculture Assistant, Office of Sen. Sherrod Brown
- Carl Zulauf, Professor, OSU Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
- Terry Cosby, Ohio State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Tony Logan, Ohio State Director, USDA Rural Development
-

@ 8:30 a.m.

- Steve Maurer, Ohio State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency

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

The event is free and open to the public, however, pre-registration is requested to help in planning. You may **pre-register with an email or telephone call to Linda Borton** at lborton@ohfarmersunion.org or 800-321-3671.

For directions and a map of the event location on the BGSU campus, please see the Ohio Farmers Union blog at <http://ohfarmersunion.org/ofu-blog/>.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL-determined soils are reminded to comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements specified in their conservation plan. Farmers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these activities can result in the loss of eligibility for certain USDA program benefits.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

COC Nomination Deadline Nears

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers. 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. 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.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The nomination form is available

at USDA Service Centers and online.

An election will be held for the Wyandot County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Richland, Salem, Crane and Eden.

For more information, contact the Wyandot County FSA office or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign individuals who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Mid-Contract CRP Cover Management

The Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Pheasants Forever (PF) developed a State Mid-Contract Management (MCM) team. The State MCM team completes site evaluations of each CRP grass practice and determines the appropriate Mid-Contract Management activity options based on the existing cover.

So how will this MCM team evaluation have an effect on CRP participants? Well, all CRP participants with contracts effective beginning with Sign-up 26 are required to perform management activities as part of their approved conservation plan. All CRP participants with contracts before Sign-up 26 may perform management activities, voluntarily. If participants voluntarily request to revise the conservation plan, the management activities will follow the same terms and conditions established for the required management activities.

Required activities shall be designed to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits, while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are designed to be site specific and used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site. Cost-sharing up to 50 percent of a flat rate, is available for most management practices including prescribed burning and interseeding.

Failure to perform planned management activities can result in contract violation.

The Wyandot County FSA office will be contacting you later this summer if your CRP contract is due for MCM this year. Practice cover evaluations of these practices by the MCM team will be conducted this summer.

Contact the Wyandot County FSA office for details concerning your CRP mid-contract management activities.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

