



Ohio State FSA Newsletter

June 2010

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

From **June 15 through Aug. 2**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the local Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAA's, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at any FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Talk to the County Executive Director or stop in the office 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>.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 15 through August 2**. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 2, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 2, 2010. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 5. Dec. 6 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2011.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 15 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops 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.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

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.

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!

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



Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be 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 USDA.

The average AGI verification and data comparison processes begin with participants providing consent to IRS for the use and disclosure of tax information to FSA for AGI compliance purposes. By completing the CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) forms, it authorizes CCC/FSA to share program participant information with IRS. This also allows IRS to use and disclose certain tax information to CCC/FSA for AGI compliance verification purposes.

To safeguard privacy of all program participants and confidentiality of the information, program participants are required to:

- complete CCC-927 and/or CCC-928
- mail the completed forms:
- directly to IRS at the address specified on the forms
- within 60 calendar days of the signature date
- to the IRS no later than **June 15, 2010**.

Completed CCC-927's and CCC-928's **will not be accepted or retained** in any FSA office.

Participants that choose **not to submit** a completed CCC-927, or CCC-928, as applicable, will be determined noncompliant with AGI limitations for the 2009 and 2010 crop, and program.

Copies of the CCC-927, CCC-928 forms are available at your local FSA office. Participants can also visit the Ohio FSA State website and download the forms at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh under the "I Want To" section. The AGI factsheet is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/irmsou10.pdf.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.875%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Sign-up Continues For Tree Assistance Program

Orchardists and nursery tree growers may apply to receive Tree Assistance Program (TAP) benefits beginning May 10, 2010, for losses suffered during calendar years **2008** and **2009**, and for losses suffered during **January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010**. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes, and vines are planted
- replace eligible trees, bushes, vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation.

DATE OF LOSS	FINAL DATE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
Calendar Year 2008	July 6, 2010
Calendar Year 2009	July 6, 2010
January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010	July 6, 2010
May 8, 2010, to Sept. 30, 2011	Within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent.

For more information about the TAP, please visit your local FSA office or to read the TAP factsheet go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tap051010.pdf

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With the high temperatures this spring, 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.

April MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

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

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 recently released the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for the month of April on May 28, 2010. Using this information, the MILC payment trigger for the month of April has been adjusted to \$16.94, for a final MILC payment rate of \$0.2115000.

For more information about the MILC program, please visit your local FSA office or go online to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.

2009 ACRE Program Production Reports

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for 2009 are required to report 2009 production to be used to compute 2009 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2010 benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2009 production reports has been extended **until July 15, 2010** for small grains and other crops. Production reports may be submitted by the 2009 crop year operator, owner or other producer with an interest in the reported acreage. Failure to file a production report (FSA-658) for a farm enrolled in ACRE will result in the farm's producers being ineligible for any ACRE contract payments and the actual yield used to determine future benchmark farm yields will be zero.

2009 ACRE Benchmark Farm Yields

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for program year 2009 must establish a benchmark farm yield for each covered commodity that was planted. A benchmark farm yield is the Olympic average of the average yield per planted acre for the farm for the 5 most recent crop years. For 2009, the benchmark farm yield is comprised of data from crop years 2004 through 2008. Because of situations where producers did not have control of farms for the preceding 5 years or a specific covered commodity may not have been planted on the farm in 1 or more of the preceding 5 crop years, "plug yields" were established by commodity and county. Producers may use the ACRE plug yield to establish the benchmark farm yield or may report production evidence.

Production must be reported on form FSA-658. Producers will be required to certify, but not submit, the documents to support their production at the time FSA-658 is filed. However, the documentation will be required at a later date to verify the reported production. The production reporting deadlines to establish the 2009 benchmark farm yields has been extended until July 15, 2010 for small grains and other crops.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount, not to exceed \$250,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities in Ohio are eligible for FSFL:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Renewable biomass; and
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA Price Support website at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and 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 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.

[Name] County FSA Office
 Address Line 2
 Address Line 3



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 CITY, STATE
 PERMIT #XXX

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP and CREP acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All CRP and CREP maintenance activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season is March 1 through July 15th. Spot treatment of the acreage to control noxious and invasive species may be allowed during the primary nesting season if prior approval is received from FSA County Committee.

Dates to Remember	
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 ACRE and 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.
July 5	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 2	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 2	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

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