**Ohio FSA State Office**

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**Hours**
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**July 2011**

**Ohio FSA State Executive Director,** Steve Maurer

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

## SURE Deadline Nears for 2009 Crops

The Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers that they have until **Friday, July 29, 2011**, to apply for assistance for 2009 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. The program provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or quality losses.

A producer interested in signing up for SURE for their 2009 crops must do so before close of business July 29, 2011. The sign-up for the SURE program for the 2010 crops will be announced at a later date.

For more information or to apply for assistance please visit your local FSA office.

## FSA COC Nomination Deadline

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 by the August 1, 2011, 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. 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 over the fact sheets at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2011.

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 4, 2011. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 5, 2011.

## July 15 Deadline Nears for Prevented Planting

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers that July 15, 2011 is the deadline extension date to timely report prevented planting.

Prevented planting acreage, or acreage that could not be planted because of wet field conditions or other natural disaster, should be reported to FSA by July 15th. This includes crops covered by crop insurance or the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Producers should contact their local FSA office or crop insurance agent to verify final planting dates for all crops since they vary among counties and crop types.

For crop losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent to file a Notice of Loss. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

To report prevented acreage, producers must complete Form CCC-*576, Notice of Loss*, for affected crops.

If a producer misses the reporting deadline for prevented planting, they may still report prevented planting acreage as long as the disaster condition may be verified and a measurement service fee is paid. If the acreage was timely reported to insurance and supports

the crop information reported to FSA, the fee may be waived. This crop insurance exception does not apply to NAP.

Producers may contact their local county FSA office if they have any questions about prevented and failed reporting or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

## USDA Continues Process to Resolve Discrimination Claims of Hispanic and Women Farmers

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, USDA established a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least $1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to $160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov.

**Individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429.** USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

## 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.

| Selected Interest Rates for July 2011 | |
|---|---|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 2.375% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 4.750% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment | 1.500% |
| Emergency Loans | 4.875% |
| Conservation Loans | 4.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year | 2.375% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year | 3.000% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year | 3.250% |
| Sugar Storage Facility Loans | 3.625% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 1.125% |

## USDA Designates 5 Ohio Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated five Ohio counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas, due to excessive rain, flooding, high winds, and tornadoes that occurred from February 2, 2011, through March 23, 2011. Those counties are; Ashland, Delaware, Holmes, Tuscarawas and Wyandot. Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carroll | Guernsey | Huron | Marion | Seneca |
| Coshocton | Hancock | Knox | Medina | Stark |
| Crawford | Hardin | Licking | Morrow | Union |
| Franklin | Harrison | Lorain | Richland | Wayne |

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas June 24, 2011, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

## 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.

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5000.

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

## 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!

## 2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extension

The deadline for 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the local FSA office.

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having 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—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

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

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in 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.

## 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.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

**Note**: All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Ranchers and more basic qualifications required, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

| Dates to Remember | |
|---|---|
| July 4 | Independence Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.** |
| July 15 | Final certification date for all crops except small grains. |
| July 29 | Last day to sign-up for the 2009 SURE program. |
| Aug. 1 | **Final date** to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year. |
| Aug. 1 | **Last day** to file County Committee Nomination forms. |
| Sept. 1 | Deadline to submit the 2010 Production Certification for the Farm Benchmark Yield and the Actual Farm Yield for the ACRE program. |
| Sept. 5 | Labor Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.** |
| 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

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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."