Ohio FSA State Office

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Hours
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7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

FSA Announces Changes to Managed Haying on CRP Acreage

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policy change to allow producers to utilize harvested hay from CRP acres expiring this fall when those acres are being prepared for fall seeded crops.

Prior to this modification, all mechanically harvested hay was required to be destroyed. This change enables livestock producers to feed the hay that is mechanically harvested to their own livestock or to sell or donate hay. This policy change applies to acres being prepared for fall seeded crops only.

Consistent with existing policy for managed or emergency haying and grazing of eligible CRP acres, rental payments will be reduced by 25 percent for those utilizing this option.

For further information about the Conservation Reserve Program, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office.

Livestock Producers Reminded of FSA's 2011 Livestock Disaster Program Deadline

Eligible producers who lose livestock due to adverse weather, such as hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, on or after January 1, 2011, and before October 1, 2011, can sign-up for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Livestock losses had to occur no later than 60 days after the adverse weather event, but prior to October 1, 2011. For livestock losses that occur in calendar year 2011, producers will have 30 days after the death to file a notice of loss to FSA, but not later than October 31, 2011 to apply for payment.

Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties, who are not affiliated with the farming operation, may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available.

LIP indemnity payments will be based on 75 percent of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA.

Producers who have questions regarding livestock disaster assistance program eligibility and the application process should contact their local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov .

2010 ACRE Production Certification Deadline

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.

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.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting the website or by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Producers Must Report AGI to IRS

In order to receive USDA program payments, each payment recipient must have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement.

IRS and USDA reports show that, nationwide, FSA is still missing the required consent forms from many producers for 2009 and 2010. To avoid an interruption of program payments, producers need to turn these forms in to the IRS immediately if they have not done so already.

Individuals must submit form CCC-927and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, producers will not receive USDA program payments. Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments.

These consent forms are required for payments received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as those received through FSA. Completed forms must be returned to the IRS.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2012 NAP coverage on Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz **is Sept. 30, 2011** in Ohio.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Sept. 30, 2011. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is $250 per crop per county or $750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of $1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

2011 ELAP Loss Requirements Deadline Reminder

Eligible producers who lost livestock, honeybees, farm-raised fish, or harvested and purchased feed due to adverse weather before October 1, 2011, can sign-up for the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) by filing a notice of loss by the earlier of 30 days of the loss occurring on or before October 31, 2011. Producers must submit an application for payment no later than January 30, 2012.

Producers with livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses that are not covered by the Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Feed Program, or the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program may be eligible for ELAP. Honeybee losses due to colony collapse disorder (CCD) are also eligible.

Eligibility provisions for ELAP also include honeybee and farm-raised fish producers, who did not replace their losses from natural disaster, to be eligible for ELAP payments based on the fair market value of the losses. In addition, documentation requirements of losses for honeybee producers who suffered losses due to CCD, allow documentation by an independent third party for losses for 2011.

ELAP applicants are eligible for:

- payments based on 60 percent of the average fair market value, as determined by FSA, of:
  - lost farm-raised bait or game fish;
  - honeybees in excess of normal honeybee mortality, as established by FSA;
  - purchased or harvested feed lost.

The payment rates, established by FSA, for 2011 honeybee colonies and hives are based on the average fair market values of honeybee colonies and/or hives. FSA has established the following average fair market values for 2011 honeybee losses:

- $70 per honeybee colony;
- $200 per honeybee hive.

Feed loss payments are 60 percent of the cost of purchased or harvested feed stuff and grazing losses are 60 percent of value, as determined by FSA.

Payments may be factored if national ELAP fund requests exceed $50 million for a calendar year.

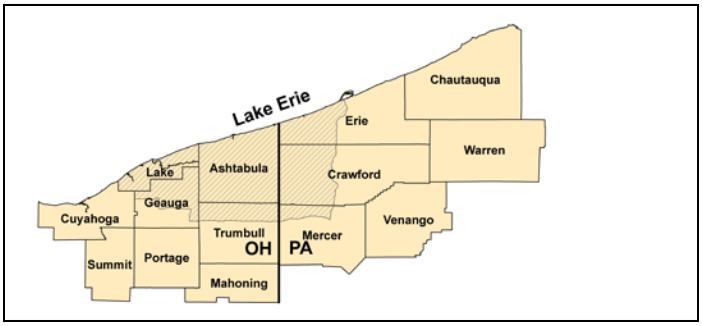
To qualify for the ELAP, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non Insured Crop Assistance Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

Producers who have questions regarding Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program eligibility and the application process should contact their local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.250%
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	1.125%

Ohio FSA Announces Sign-up Deadline for Biomass Crop Assistance Program Project Area

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that producers **have until Sept. 16th** to sign-up for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) in northeast Ohio. Acreage in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties, Ohio and Crawford, Erie and Mercer counties, Pennsylvania, is designated to grow giant miscanthus. See the map below for what counties and portions are included in BCAP project area 5.



BCAP Project Area 5 targets 2011 enrollment of 5,344 acres. This acreage will be selected to grow giant miscanthus, a sterile hybrid warm-season grass that can be converted into energy to be used for heat, power, liquid biofuels and bio-based products.

Sign-up began June 20, 2011 for producers interested to enroll acreage in the BCAP program within this project area. With the Sept. 16, 2011 sign-up deadline approaching, anyone who is interested in BCAP should contact their local FSA office as soon as possible.

The sponsor for this project is Aloterra Energy, LLC and the project area surrounds the company's biomass conversion facility in Conneaut, Ohio.

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Approved producers will be eligible for reimbursements of up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing the bioenergy perennial crop and receive up to five years of annual payments. Bioenergy facilities are those facilities that produce heat, power, biobased products, or advanced biofuels from biomass feedstocks.

Producers interested in participating in BCAP should visit their local county FSA office for additional information and application. Information about BCAP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/BCAP .

Treasury Check Changes

Starting in 2013, the Treasury department will no longer issue paper checks. Producers, who elect not to receive direct deposit, will be issued some type of debit card for the program payment. Producers that receive payments electronically using Direct Deposit will not be affected by this change.

Direct Deposit cuts down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

If you are not interested in receiving a debit card for program payments, then contact your local FSA office to electronically receive direct deposit payments into your banking institution.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 31	**Deadline** to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for value loss crops such as Aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod, and Watercress.
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. 16	Deadline to sign-up for BCAP in NE Ohio.
Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Sept. 30	Deadline to file a notice of loss and an application for payment for ELAP, LFP and LIP programs for 2011.
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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