



NEWSLETTER



Ohio FSA State Office

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Hours

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

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

COC Nomination Deadline Nears

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers and ranchers. 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 ranchers 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 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

For more information, contact your local 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>.

Acreage & Crop Reporting Requirements

Producers are reminded of the ANNUAL acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. The acreage reporting deadlines for 2013 are as follows:

- July 15th for any spring-seeded crops (corn & soybeans), fruits and vegetables, cabbage planted by May 31st, forage crops;
- August 15th for CRP and cabbage planted between June 1st and July 20th; and
- December 15th for wheat and other fall seeded crops.

Prevented planted and failed cropland acres that will not be brought to harvest have slightly different timelines.

- Prevented planting acres must be reported within 15 calendar days of the Federal Crop Insurance Companies (FCIC) established ending planting dates. For corn, the FCIC ending planting date is June 5, and for soybeans the ending planting date is June 20.

- Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Failure to timely report prevented planting acres may result in loss of potential disaster assistance, as well as maintaining cropping history.
- For crop losses 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.

Missing any of these deadlines could cause FSA payments to be held and a late filing penalty fee to be charged. So, please contact your local FSA office if you have any questions or to set up an appointment to report your crop acreages.

DCP Program Enrollment Deadline Approaching

The sign-up period for DCP is coming to a close. It is important producers contact their local FSA office to set up appointments **well before** the August 2, 2013, deadline.

2012 ACRE Program Production Reports



Producers that participated in the ACRE program for 2012 are required to report 2012 production to be used to compute 2012 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2013 benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2012 production reports is **July 15, 2013** for small grains and other crops. Production reports may be submitted by the 2012 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.

2012 ACRE Benchmark Farm Yields

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for program year 2012 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 2012, the benchmark farm yield is comprised of data from crop years 2008 through 2012. 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 2012 benchmark farm yields is July 15, 2013 for small grains and other crops.

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 **Aug. 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.

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 office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Increase Farm Income by Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators

Did you know that production agriculture is dependent upon pollinators such as bees, insects, birds, and other animals? Approximately 30 percent of the food and fiber crops grown throughout the world depend upon insect pollination. Recent significant declines in pollinator populations pose a potentially serious economic threat to production agriculture.

To help enhance and restore habitat for ecologically and economically significant pollinator species, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has collaborated with pollinator experts and other conservation partners to develop a new CRP practice, CP42-Pollinator Habitat. CP42 allows landowners and farm operators to establish plots of wildflowers and legumes vital for the longevity of pollinator species.

The pollinator habitat practice may be established on the acreage of an entire field, or planted in blocks or strips within a field. The strips or blocks may allow for the practice to be incorporated into organic or non-organic farming operations if the land meets certain eligibility criteria. CP42 may also be incorporated into the landscape of vineyards and orchards.

To be eligible for CP42, the offered land must be owned or leased for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible, and must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner. Land must also meet cropping history and other eligibility requirements. Land currently enrolled in CRP may be re-offered for enrollment into CP42 if the land enrolled in CRP is in the last year of the CRP-1 contract.

Offers for enrollment may be made at the Blank County FSA office. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and applicant meet certain eligibility requirements. CP42 offers are not subject to competitive bidding.

Producers will receive annual rental payments for the length of the contract, and cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of the eligible practice cost to establish CP42 pollinator habitats. Additionally, FSA provides producers with a signing incentive payment of up to \$150 per acre (not applicable to re-enrolled acreage). Contracts for CP42 practices must be 10 years in duration.

If you are interested in establishing or restoring pollinator habitat on your land or wish to learn more about the new CP42-Pollinator Habitat practice, then stop by your local FSA office or go [online](#) to read further about the pollinator habitat.

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.

Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA county office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations and [online](#).

Selected Interest Rates for July 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
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%

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.



Producers Must Report Crop Losses to FSA

Producers must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent, this includes crops covered by crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 - "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program."

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.

Dates to Remember

July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Deadline to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2013.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 2	Deadline to sign-up for DCP.
Sept. 2	Labor Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Oct. 1	Deadline to obtain 2014 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.

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To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."