Ohio FSA State Office

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

October 2013

Ohio FSA State Executive Director, Steve Maurer

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

USDA FSA Issues Conservation Reserve Program Rental Payments, Direct Payments and ACRE Payments

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun distributing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants. USDA also will distribute 2013 direct payments and 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments beginning Oct. 24. Payments originally were scheduled to be issued earlier in the month, but were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding. USDA has prioritized making these scheduled payments without any further delay and FSA staff have worked hard to get this assistance out the door as quickly as possible.

Producers with base acres of certain commodities are eligible for DCP payments. ACRE payments for 2012-crop barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, dry peas, soybeans, and wheat are scheduled to be released beginning Oct. 24 and contingent upon national average market prices and yields in each state.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provides authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013, however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs.

For more information on CRP, DCP and ACRE, producers should contact your local FSA office.

Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to $300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of $1,355,000 starting on October 1, 2013. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness $1,655,000.

For detailed information, contact your local County FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify your county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec. 2, 2013.

2014 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed and the acreage reporting date **is Dec. 16, 2013**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please call to schedule an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

USDA Farm Service Agency's Administrator Declares Physical Loss in Several Ohio Counties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Administrator has declared emergency physical loss loans are available in fifteen Ohio counties.

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas, due to high winds, lightning, and tornadoes that occurred on June 13, 2013. Those counties are: **Auglaize and Henry.**

In addition to the primary counties, thirteen Ohio counties have been named as contiguous disaster counties where eligible farmers may qualify for FSA emergency physical loss loan assistance:

Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Lucas, Mercer, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams and Wood.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on **July 8, 2013**, making FSA Emergency Physical Loss loans available to eligible applicants with qualifying severe physical losses in the primary and contiguous counties, provided eligibility requirements are met. This approval is limited to applicants who suffered disaster related damages to chattels, or real estate essential to the farming operation. To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all 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 has also made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

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

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. 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. You can also go on-line and download the form at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf .

Although interested parties may obtain a report form from any FSA county office, the completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land or where the programs are administered.

Foreign investors should contact the BLANK County FSA Office if this pertains to you.

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The FSA reminds interested applicants that we offer loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to $300,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of $1,355,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.000%
Sugar Storage Facility	3.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Palmer Amaranth – Be Attentive and Scout for this weed before it Spreads

Palmer amaranth was added to Ohio's state noxious weed list several years ago. In many places in the country this plant has developed herbicide tolerance that makes it a serious pest. There have been enough recent reports of the pest to raise concern that it might be finding its way into Ohio through a variety of sources -- hay, feed, and seed. Farm equipment, specifically combines, has and will spread Palmer amaranth seed. Wildlife can also spread the seed into new, previously uninfested fields.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, The Ohio State University Extension Service, the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service want landowners and growers to be alert of this potential problem and that it's in everyone's best interest to know the weed and survey their operations for its presence. Of particular interest would be new plantings -- CRP/CREP, hay, pasture -- sown with seed sourced out of state. Take care to control Palmer amaranth plants in ditches and field edges. In fall 2012, Purdue weed scientists identified Palmer amaranth scattered along multiple roadside ditches in northwest Indiana. Although these plants did not compete with field crops, they still help spread the population through pollen and seed.

The Ohio State University Extension Service developed a weed management website and a page dedicated to Palmer amaranth. Factsheets to understand the biology and to identify this weed are available along with management options of new infestations and a video on what farmers need to know now that outlines the potential for problems with Palmer amaranth.

More information on this weed is available on the OSU weed management website at http://agcrops.osu.edu/specialists/weeds. If you find plants that you believe to be Palmer amaranth, please contact The OSU Extension Service to confirm identification, as they can offer further information.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Farm Safety

With harvest season underway the Farm Service Agency would like to remind all farmers to be safe.

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 4	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Nov. 20	**Last day to apply** for coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey and maple syrup.
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**
Dec. 2	**Last day** to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 16	**Deadline** to report the 2014 Fall Seeded Crops for fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. **FSA Offices Closed.**

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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."