



# NEWSLETTER



## Ohio FSA State Office

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

## July 2014

Ohio FSA State  
Executive Director,  
Steve Maurer

Farm Loan Chief,  
David Drake

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://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. 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 producers 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 15, 2014 through August 1, 2014**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

For more information, producers should contact their County 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>.

## 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Ohio:

- July 15, 2014 --- Report all your Burley Tobacco, Cabbage (Planted 3/19/14-5/31/14), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other crops.
- Aug. 15, 2014 --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/14-7/20/14).
- Sept. 30, 2014 --- Report Aquaculture.
- Dec. 15, 2014 --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days

after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, producers should contact their County FSA office.

## Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

With the summer temperatures, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact the County FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

## Ohio FSA Approved to Accept Cache Valley Virus (CVV)

The Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) was recently approved by the National FSA to accept Cache Valley Virus (CVV) as a qualifying disease for the FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or eligible loss condition.



CVV is a virus that causes infertility, abortions and congenital abnormalities in sheep. The virus is spread by mosquitoes during early breeding season.

“Since Ohio experienced excessive moisture in the fall of 2013 this provided the CVV infected mosquitoes with an ample and a favorable environment to flourish and cause losses to Sheep producers across the state, stated Steven Maurer, FSA State Executive Director. It was apparent that Ohio did have an increase in the number of lambs infected with CVV in 2014 causing ewes to abort or have still births. Therefore, it was important to have CVV approved as an eligible loss condition for sheep death losses under the 2014 ELAP program,” Maurer added.

Sheep producers that have been affected by the CVV are encouraged to contact and make an appointment with their [county FSA office](#). Producers who suffered eligible livestock losses during the 2014 program year must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to the local FSA office by **Nov. 1, 2014**.

For more information about ELAP, producers can review the [ELAP Fact Sheet online or contact their local FSA office for more information](#).

## 2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must be Filed by Aug. 1, 2014 for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers

who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the ELAP Fact Sheet on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

## 2013 ACRE Program Reports

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for small grains and other crops **by July 15, 2014**. Production reports may be submitted by the 2013 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.

## 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 2014	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.750%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans -- 15 year	2.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

## USDA Continues the 2014 "Feds Feed Families" Nationwide Food Drive

USDA continues the Feds Feed Families Campaign through August 27. The Feds Feed Families Campaign is an annual event and food drive in which Federal employees, nationwide, collect food for distribution by food banks, food pantries, and shelters.

All Federal agencies across the country participate in the campaign and employees are asked to donate non-perishable food items throughout the summer. Donations are given to local food banks across the country – having a positive impact to help food banks address food insecurity.

As the growing season continues and we enjoy the abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables, please consider donating and sharing any extra produce or non-perishable food items to help others, stated Steve Maurer, State Executive Director.

If you are interested in making a donation to the annual "Feds Feed Families" Food Drive, producers should contact their County FSA office. To help locate a food pantry or food bank closest to you, visit the Feeding America Food Bank Locator website at <http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx> and the AmpleHarvest.org database at [www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php](http://www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php).

## 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.

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.

## Do I need to follow FSA conservation compliance rules if I have a loan with another bank but FSA guaranteed my loan?

Recently, our office received this inquiry and I wanted to share this question and answer with everyone. Simply put, **yes** if a borrower has a guaranteed loan by FSA then the borrower will have to follow FSA conservation compliance rules, i.e. Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions and this is why.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to family farmers to promote, build and sustain family farms in support of a thriving agricultural economy. FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers start, purchase or expand their farming operation.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a commercial lender (e.g., banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions) makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against the loss of principal and interest on a loan up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases. Farmers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. FSA then has the responsibility of approving all eligible loan guarantees and providing oversight of lenders' activities.

When obtaining a FSA guaranteed loan, the borrower certifies that they are not, currently, and **will not violate for the duration of the loan**, the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 relating to Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetlands Conservation (WC). Simply put, the **borrower certifies** that they are currently in compliance with and will not violate HEL and WC provisions, and that loan funds will not be used for a purpose that will contribute to a violation of HEL or WC provisions. The borrower certifies this compliance by completing an *AD-1026 form* for land in which they have farming interest.

If a borrower **fails to comply** with HEL and WC provisions throughout the duration of the loan, this could result in the borrower being in non-monetary default on the loan. If corrective actions are not taken to mitigate the violation, the loan can be terminated through a foreclosure action.

For more information or for specific questions regarding Conservation Compliance and the FSA guaranteed loan contact our office.

## USDA Invites Suggestions for the 2017 Census of Agriculture

USDA invites suggestions for the 2017 Census of Agriculture that is conducted once every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture down to the county level.

NASS released the complete 2012 Census of Agriculture results on May 2, 2014. The agency is now planning the content for the 2017 Agriculture Census and is accepting input. Any individual or organization may submit suggestions on questionnaire items to add or delete, as well as any other ideas concerning the Census. There will be another opportunity to provide official comment through the Federal Register process in the coming weeks.

Content suggestions for the 2017 Census will be accepted until August 4, 2014. Comments can be submitted online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov/Contact\\_Us/Census\\_Program\\_Input\\_Form/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Census_Program_Input_Form/). Written suggestions may be mailed to: Census Content Team, Room 6451, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

To learn more and to access the complete 2012 Census of Agriculture results, including State and County Profiles and all the other Census data and tools, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Dates to Remember	
July 14	Deadline FSA will accept applications from biomass conversion facilities for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).
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.
July 15	Final date to submit 2013 production for ACRE participants.
Aug. 1	<b>Last day</b> to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	Deadline to file 2012 and 2013 ELAP losses for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses.
Aug. 29	<b>Deadline</b> to sign-up for the 2012 SURE program.
Sept. 2	Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Oct. 1	Deadline to obtain 2015 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."