



# NEWSLETTER



## Ohio FSA State Office

200 North High St.  
Rm. 540  
Columbus, OH 43215

614-255-2441 phone  
855-832-5100 fax

### Hours

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

## August 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)

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## USDA Notifies Producers on Acreage History and Yields

Written notifications from USDA are underway to farmers that provide updates on their current base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history.

Please cross check the letter from USDA with your farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time, but if our letter is incomplete or incorrect, contact our office as soon as possible.

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm's acreage history is a required early step for enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Later this summer, farmers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in the spring of 2015.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Visit the FSA office for additional information.

## USDA Extends Deadline for the Filing for NAP Losses Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

The enrollment deadline for the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) has been extended to Aug. 15, 2014.

Originally, program sign-up was scheduled to end Aug. 1. The new deadline gives livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses because of disease, adverse weather, wildfires or colony collapse disorder between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2013, an additional two weeks to enroll in ELAP.

Producers are encouraged to contact the County FSA office for additional information regarding ELAP.

## Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## 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.

## Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) for dairy producers. The new, voluntary risk management program replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which expires on Sept. 1, 2014.



MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference (the margin) between the all-milk price and national average feed cost falls below a certain producer selected amount.

Eligible producers may purchase coverage for their dairy operation by paying an annual administrative fee of \$100 and a premium, as applicable, for higher levels of coverage. Producers in the dairy operation will have to select a desired coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$8.00, in \$0.50 increments and a desired coverage percentage level ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments. Producers will also have to decide whether or not to participate in the MPP-Dairy Program or the Livestock Gross Margin program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), but they will not be allowed to participate in both.

A decision tool will be made available in the fall of 2014 to help producers make coverage level decisions. Enrollment will also begin this fall. Dairy operators will establish their production history during sign-up. Verification of the production records will be required. The regulations for MPP-dairy are still being developed. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

## USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

Changes mandated through the 2014 Farm Bill require producers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 form must be on file with the FSA. Since many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs have this requirement, most producers should already have an AD-1026 on file. If producers have not filed, they must do so **by June 1, 2015**.

When a farmer completes the AD-1026, FSA and NRCS staff will outline any additional actions that may be required for compliance with the provisions. The Risk Management Agency, through the Federal

Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#). USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact the County for information.

## Disaster Assistance for 2012 Frost or Freeze Fruit Crop Losses Announced

Producers who experienced losses to bush or tree fruit crops due to frost or freeze during the 2012 crop year may be eligible for assistance through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The program, authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides supplemental NAP payments to eligible producers.

Farmers who did not have access to crop insurance and are in primary and adjacent counties that received a Secretarial disaster designation because of frost or freeze in 2012 are eligible for NAP assistance. Losses due to weather damage or other adverse natural occurrences may also qualify for program assistance. **Counties that are eligible for 2012 frost or freeze fruit crop losses include:** Ashtabula, Butler, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Fulton, Geauga, Hamilton, Lake, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Summit, Trumbull, Van Wert and Williams.

NAP enrollment began July 22, 2014. Applications must be submitted to FSA county offices by Sept. 22, 2014.

To expedite applications, producers who experienced losses are encouraged to collect records documenting these losses in preparation for sign-up. Producers also are encouraged to contact the FSA county office to schedule an appointment. Limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and beginning producers are eligible for premium reductions and also may be eligible for fee reductions.

Interested producers can view the [2012 NAP Coverage for Frost, Freeze or Weather Related Fruit Losses Fact Sheet](#) or visit the FSA office for more information.

# Agricultural Producers in Ohio Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

## *Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that there is still funding available for eligible farmers for low interest loans through FSA's direct farm ownership program.

Eligible producers can borrow up to \$300,000 in direct farm ownership loans to buy or enlarge a farm, construct new farm buildings or improve structures, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation and protection. The interest rate on select loans can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

FSA encourages all interested applicants to apply for direct farm ownership loans. For more information about the program and other loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Sign-Up for Lake Erie CREP Continues

Farmers and landowners in northwest Ohio can take advantage of some money available and be good stewards of the land at the same time. How can this be possible? By participating in the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

CREP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is an incentive program that combines resources from partners like the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Pheasants Forever and the Conservation Action Project, among others, to promote the enrollment of 67,000 acres of farmland in a variety of conservation practices.

The Lake Erie CREP is focused on improving water quality and soil conservation in the Lake Erie Watershed, with a special emphasis on the Blanchard and Tiffin Rivers as important tributaries on the Maumee River. The Lake Erie CREP is available in 27 counties including; Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Lorain, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties.

These conservation practices will target environmentally sensitive areas in the Lake Erie Watershed to reduce sediments and nutrients, prevent water pollution and minimize the risk of flooding and enhance wildlife habitat.

Farmers and landowners can choose from a number of practices including grass buffer strips, hardwood tree plantings, wildlife habitat, wetlands and windbreaks that work together to prevent chemicals, soils and other contaminants from running off of cropland and into waterways. Also, participants can earn money on less economically viable land, such as, land along ditch banks, streams, and woodlands.

In exchange for installing and maintaining these practices, you will earn a guaranteed annual rental payment for 14 to 15 years plus receive cost share and incentives to cover the majority of the cost of practice installation. The annual income from the conservation practice will be similar to what is paid for cash rent on the three predominant soils of the CREP practice area. Additional soil rental rate incentives are also available. Also, FSA can provide you with an estimate of the payments you would be eligible to receive for the duration of the contract period (14-15 years).

Signup for the Lake Erie CREP is going on now. Interested landowners and farmers should contact the County FSA office or the SWCD office to learn more about the Lake Erie CREP.

## 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. 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.

Sheep producers that have been affected by the CVV are encouraged to contact and make an appointment with the 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 the County FSA office for more information.

## Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farm Loans

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 than 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 average farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

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.

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

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 15	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.
Aug. 31	<b>Deadline</b> to obtain 2015 NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod and Watercress.
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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