



June 2009

District B - Pennsylvania FSA

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Lackawanna / Wayne / Pike
Luzerne
Northampton / Lehigh
Tioga



June 2009

Lackawanna/Wayne/Pike County

FSA News

**Lackawanna-Wayne-Pike County
USDA Service Center**

Lackawanna-Wayne-Pike County FSA
1300 Old Plank Road
Mayfield, PA 18433

570-282-8732 phone
570-281-5379 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Brian Tranovich
Clyde Eitz
Carl Shepstone
Paul Manning
Julie Yatsonsky
BonnieRosiak – Advisor

Staff

Elizabeth Kotkiewicz
Lucy DelBuono
John Stinavage

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). Service Centers use NAIP imagery to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.



Using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public. The GIS environment provides for the incorporation of data from outside sources for business decision making or environmental planning. Some examples of outside data sources include demographic data, satellite imagery, GPS data, elevation data and soil types.

More information about the CLU and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repay-

ment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details are available at your county FSA office.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

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 **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. 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.

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. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms

Nov. 6, 2009 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

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Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
May 4 thru May 29, 2009	Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion
June 15, 2009	COC nominations period opens
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Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline

LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Wayne	3	Scott, Starrucca, Preston, Mt. Pleasant, Clinton, Dyberry
Wayne	4	Buckingham, Manchester, Lebanon, Damascus, Oregon, Berlin

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



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Luzerne FSA News

Luzerne County USDA Service Center

Luzerne County
USDA Service Center

Luzerne County FSA
911 West Main Street
Plymouth, PA 18651
570-779-0732 (phone)
570-779-5714 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
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Dorothy Larock
Paul Young

Staff
Danadee M. Miller-Boyle
County Executive Director

Betty Crilley
Program Technician

Julia Czajkowski
Program Technician

Bob Kashubski
Field Assistant

Bob Stola
Field Assistant



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- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Luzerne	1	Ross
Luzerne	1	Lake
Luzerne	1	Lehman
Luzerne	1	Jackson
Luzerne	1	Fairmount
Luzerne	1	Huntington

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

CONSERVATION MOWING

To control noxious weeds for CREP Program, spot-mowing, not mowing of entire fields, may occur between JULY 16 through August 31 only. Spraying of herbicides to control noxious weeds is also an option, however you should contact Ryan Koch the Coordinator of Pocono NE RC&D at 570-282-8732 Ext. 4 for more information. Remember wildlife is a big part of the CREP Program and needs to be kept in mind.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you have any problems to your crops due to weather, please contact the CTO and file a notice of loss (CCC-576) within 15 calendar days after notice of loss of crop(s) then an initial appraisal of crop(s) will be completed. For more information call the office.

DCP/ACRE REGULATIONS REGARDING IDLE ACREAGE

All idle acreage on a farm with a DCP or ACRE contract is required to have a conservation cover and be controlled for weeds. If mowing will be used to control weeds, the County Committee has set July 16 to August 31 as the mowing period to control noxious weeds.

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Northampton/Lehigh County

FSA News

Northampton and Lehigh County USDA Service Center

Northampton/Lehigh County FSA
3910 Adler Pl. Suite 110
Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-625-8392 phone
610-625-8397 fax
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

John Valkovec
Brian Fulmer
Dale Remaley
Kenneth Gehringer
Leroy Stahler
Joann Hunsicker

Staff

Brian Ranck, CED
Dorothy Dewhirst, PT
Sandra Garr, PT
Jane Oswald, PT

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More information about the CLU and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

Commodity Loans

Need money for operating expenses? You may use your harvested crop as collateral to obtain a 9-month loan. To be eligible for loan, you must have grown the crop and retain control of and title to the eligible commodity while the commodity is under loan. You are responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the commodity and obtaining permission from the county office prior to moving or selling the grain.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repay-

ment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details are available at your county FSA office.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 15th for small grains. All other crop reports must be filed by July 15th.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is:

- effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years
- required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as:

- dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible.
- Lentils; any intended use.
- large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use.
- small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001, may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late-file prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

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 **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. 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.

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. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms (FSA 669A) from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Aug. 3, 2009 - Last day to file nomination forms

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Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Northampton	5	Upper Mount Bethel
		Lower Mount Bethel
		Washington
		Plainfield
		Forks
		Palmer

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
May 4 thru May 29, 2009	Requests for Referendum for Soybean Promotion
June 15, 2009	COC nominations period opens
Aug. 14, 2009	2009 ACRE election & signup deadline
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



June 2009

Tioga County FSA News

Tioga County USDA Service Center

Tioga County FSA
50 Plaza Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901

570-724-4812 phone
570-724-6542 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/pa

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Duane Seymour, Chairman
Dixie Coolidge, Vice-chair
Karl Kroeck, Member
Mary Ann Porter, Advisor

Staff

Sherri Butters, CED
John Felondis, FLM
Jehanna Howe, FLO
Tim Repine, FLO
Pam Reese, PT
Carol Truman, PT
Catherine Lingle, PT
Billie Williams, PT

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

June 15, 2009 –
Oats, wheat, barley, rye

July 15, 2009 –
Corn, soybeans, CREP, hay,
vegetables, sorghum



Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Loans on new farm storage structures are available through your local FSA Office. Eligible structures include grain bins, silos, and handling equipment. To be eligible for these 7 year loans, you must have a need for additional storage and you must grow an eligible crop. A satisfactory credit history is required and you must demonstrate the ability to repay the debt. The interest rate for May 2009 is 2.375 percent. Contact your county office for additional details.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

ACRE Signup is Ongoing

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the USDA has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. FSA manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

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- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

LAA(s) up for Election

County Committee Elections		
County	LAA	Townships
Tioga	1	Osceola, Farmington, Nelson, Middlebury, Elk, Westfield, Gaines, Chatham, Deerfield, Brookfield, Clymer, and Shippen

To read more about the 2009 County Committee elections, visit the Pennsylvania FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pa.

John Felondis has been promoted to Farm Loan Manager at FSA. Tim Repine has joined the Farm Loan Team as a loan office along with Jehanna Howe.

Mike Hanawalt has accepted a position as District Conservationist for Bradford County NRCS and has been promoted to Supervisory District Conservationist for Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties. We will miss Mike but wish him the very best.

Nathan Barnes has joined the Tioga County Conservation District as the new Chesapeake Bay Technician.

Reminder: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program participants must keep their records up-to-date. This includes sales of land and gas well drilling activities. Be sure to report CREP acres to FSA no later than July 15, 2009 in order to meet contract requirements for crop reporting.

MILC payments are being issued on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I price is below \$16.94 per cwt. as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. As a result, payments are not issued until the end of the month following the month the milk was marketed. For example, February’s MILC payment was not issued until the beginning of April. Enrollment is still open but no payments will be made for past months.

In order to save time when you call the Ag Center, please note the following extensions:

- Tioga County Conservation District -- 5
- Natural Resources Conservation Service -- 3
- Farm Service Agency -- 2

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