

May 2007



Delaware County News

Delaware County
USDA Service Center

Delaware County FSA
557 Sunbury Rd, Suite C
Delaware OH 43015
740-363-3671 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov/OH

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

County Committee
Dwight Piper, Chair
Craig Pittman, Vice Chair
Bret Davis, Member
Carolyn Skinner, Advisor

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday, 8:30 am

Staff
Don Henry, CED
Margaret Webster, PT
Patty Hope, PT
Julie Faurote, PT
Hal Clase, Field Reporter

CRP and CREP Implementation Prior to Contract Approval is at Participant's Own Risk

Over the past few years, the Delaware County FSA has accepted an abundance of CRP and CREP applications. We realize that the increased business has increased the time it takes our office to process an application from start to finish. However, regardless of the processing time, **any CRP practice implementation done prior to contract approval is at the producer's own risk.**

FSA is not obligated to pay cost share on CRP until certain specifications are met, including the conservation plan development and contract approval. FSA is also subject to certain procedures and laws that take a fixed amount of time to complete. Applications requiring any amount of excavation, such as waterways require a cultural resource review, which depending on the results, may further delay the process. **Producers who chose to begin work or allow contractors to begin work prior to contract approval do so at the risk of not receiving cost share on the practice or CRP Participation.** This could occur due to any variety of unforeseen circumstances such as: variations between the construction and the conservation plan; sites determined infeasible for CRP; or discovery of historical value at the site.

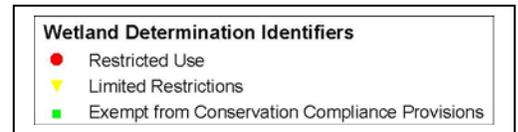
Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2006 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be Thursday May 31, 2007.**

Wetland Point Symbology on CLU Maps

Due to concerns raised by some individuals and organizations the wetland symbols on CLU maps will soon be revised from the current blue dot to a red octagon for wetlands with restricted uses, an upside-down yellow arrow for wetlands with limited restriction and a green square for wetlands exempt from conservation compliance provisions. Producers are reminded that wetland identifiers on Common Land Unit (CLU) maps do not represent the size, shape or specific determination of the area.

Producers should refer to the original determination on form CPA-026 and the associated map for exact wetland boundaries and labels or contact their local NRCS office.



Maintaining CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain Conservation Reserve Program acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). **Participants must:**

- Have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period;
- Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation; and
- Take control measures outside of the primary nesting season which is **March 1-July 15.**

Please keep in mind mowing for cosmetic purposes are prohibited at all times. That is why it is important to review your Conservation Plan and talk to NRCS for the best control method(s), if you think noxious weeds or undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers 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, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.



Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$899,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans 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 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.

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



Lake Erie, Upper Big Walnut and the Scioto River Watershed CREP

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Lake Erie, the Upper Big Walnut and the Scioto River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) are still eligible for enrollment. CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring cropland or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10-15 years for installing and maintaining buffer strips, riparian areas, grassed waterways and shallow water areas.

Eligible cropland must have been cropped 4 of the 6 years between 1996 and 2001. Marginal pastureland is also eligible, but only for riparian buffers, and if the land is adjacent or parallel to streams. For more information regarding the Lake Erie, the Upper Big Walnut and the Scioto River Watershed CREP's, contact your local FSA office.

FSA MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES

Last fall the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office updated a major amendment to the Measurement Service Rate. This mandatory statewide measurement service rate increase was set by the National office to recover the County office cost to perform the service.

The statewide measurement service rate increase was effective on Oct. 11, 2006. The following table is a summary of the new mandatory measurement rates.

Basic Farm Fee	\$30.00
Plus Hourly Rate (Minimum of 1 hour).	\$16.00
Minimum total	\$46.00
Every 30 minutes after the first hour.	\$8.00

Note: The mileage is included in the basic farm rate. There is no charge for mileage. The hourly rate charges begin when the employee leaves the county office or duty station and ends when the employee returns. The hourly rate is rounded to the nearest 30 minute increment after the first hour when computing costs.

The measurement service rates will apply to, but not limited to the following services: measuring crops after planting; staking and referencing acreages to be planted; measuring acreage that has been adjusted; verifying crops, disaster acreage and late-filed fees; re-measuring any acreage that had been measured previously; measuring or sampling farm-stored commodities. Also, Price Support loans and LDP's will be charged on a per farm basis.

For more information on the statewide measurement service rate change, contact your local FSA county office.



Selected Interest Rates for May 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.250%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program offers producers low interest financing for the purchase of new grain storage and drying equipment. Producers may be eligible to finance up to \$100 thousand for the purchase of grain storage and drying equipment.

For information about grain storage options visit your FSA office or local extension agent.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA can automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollment availability, please contact your local FSA office.



Maintaining Farm Stored Grain Quality

Many producers sometimes struggle to find adequate grain storage. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems. Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan. Before removing loan collateral, call or visit your local FSA office.

Acreage Reporting

Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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 their local FSA if this pertains to you. To locate the Farm Service Agency county office, you can look in the telephone book white pages or go on-line to: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh and then click on the "County Offices" link. Then click on the county where the land is located.

Dates to Remember	
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2006 commodity loans and LDPs on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final Acreage Reporting date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final Acreage Reporting date for all crops except small grains.
August 3	Sign-up ends for 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans.
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

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