



## Northwest Ohio FSA News January 2008

### Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter is distributed to all producers served by Northwest Ohio District Farm Service Agency offices. While the return address for this mailing on the reverse of this newsletter is that of the Wood County Farm Service Agency, producers should contact their servicing county Farm Service Agency office for additional information and program details.

### 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

The Farm Service Agency is administering a Crop Disaster Program for qualifying 2005, 2006, or 2007 crop year quantity losses. Producers must have obtained crop insurance from the Risk Management Agency or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from the Farm Service Agency for the year of the loss to be eligible for benefits. Legislation initially required the crop to have been planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007. **A recent revision extends coverage to all 2007 crop year crops.** Producers can choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Losses must have been in excess of 35% of the expected production of the crop and must have been caused by damaging weather or related conditions. Signup has begun and an ending date has not been announced. Signup for quality losses for the same period will be announced later. Contact your local office for an appointment.

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

The LCP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs in a county or a contiguous county receiving a presidential or secretarial disaster declaration in calendar years 2005 through 2007.

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered livestock losses in a county or a contiguous county receiving a presidential or secretarial disaster declaration in calendar years 2005 through 2007.

### Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program (DDAP-III)

The DDAP-III provides benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered dairy production losses as a result of natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

### Report of Payments to Producers

The Commodity Credit Corporation is required to file an informational return (Form 1099-G) with IRS when payments are issued to producers. A program payment is considered made in the calendar year that the payment was issued, and not in the calendar year that it was earned or received. The report is provided as a service to help producers report taxable income and is not intended to replace a producer's responsibility to report income to IRS. Form 1099-G no longer contains producer refund information due to a policy change.

### Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

### Foreign Investment Disclosure

Foreign persons who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in any tract of U. S. agricultural land, forestland, or timberland must report the transaction within 90 days of the closing to the Secretary of Agriculture through the local Farm Service Agency office. Foreign persons must also report changes in land use from agricultural to nonagricultural and vice-versa; changes in interest from foreign to non-foreign or foreign to foreign, and changes in legal addresses of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier members. Persons failing to report could be subject to civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

### Lake Erie CREP

The opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive conservation practices under a Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program contract has been extended through March 15, 2008.

### Quail/Upland Bird Habitat on CRP

The opportunity to enroll 30 to 120-foot field borders under a 10-year Conservation Reserve Program contract for the purpose of establishing habitat for quail and other upland birds has been extended through March 15, 2008.

### Cost-Share for Conservation Practices

Producer participating in the Conservation Reserve Program are reminded to provide invoices and supporting documentation to their local office upon practice completion.

### Payment Limitation/Eligibility

Program payments that are subject to a payment limitation can not be provided until all required forms for an individual or entity are provided and necessary payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations have been made. After the initial filing of payment limitation documents, producers are required to notify the county office of any changes in the farming operation that could affect a person, actively engaged in farming, or foreign person determination. Entities earning payments subject to a limitation are required to provide the names and related information of the entity's members to the county committee. Members of the entity will be required to designate no more than three entities to earn payments. A producer who receives payment as an individual is permitted to designate two additional entities. Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the county committee and are subject to an end-of-year review process.

| <i>Program</i>                           | <i>Pay Limit</i> |
|--|------------------|
| DCP Counter-Cyclical Payments            | \$65,000         |
| Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)       | \$50,000         |
| Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)      | \$100,000        |
| Loan Deficiency Payments/Market Gain     | \$75,000         |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program | \$450,000        |

### Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Producers are ineligible for benefits under USDA programs if they plant an agricultural commodity on a wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985. After November 28, 1990, it is also considered a violation to convert a wetland by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means to make the production of an agricultural commodity possible. Producers who plant agricultural commodities on land determined to be highly erodible must be in compliance with an approved conservation plan or system. Producers are required to request a conservation compliance determination before performing drainage activities or bringing new land into production.

### Spousal Signature

A husband and wife can sign program documents on behalf of each other for most Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the FSA office.

### Faxed Signatures Accepted

Most USDA forms can be submitted by FAX. USDA is not responsible for transmission failures or other problems that prevent successful and timely receipt of faxed information. Producers no longer need to authenticate a faxed signature with Form FSA-237.

### Report Direct Deposit Changes

Please notify your local FSA office of closed accounts, changes in account numbers, and changes in bank routing numbers. FSA has no statutory authority to reimburse producers for charges incurred because of an electronic transfer deposit being made late.

### Designation by Landowner Method

This is a method of dividing farm and tract crop records in a manner agreed upon by the seller and purchaser. This method is available when an entire farm or tract or part of a farm or tract is sold or transferred or when a farm or tract is sold or transferred to 2 or more persons. The land being transferred must be owned for three years and a written memorandum of understanding is required.

USDA FSA  
WOOD COUNTY  
1616 E. WOOSTER ST. BOX 31  
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBUS, OH  
PERMIT NO 8597

### Misaction and Misinformation

The Farm Service Agency offices strive to provide the most accurate program information to ensure that producers are adequately informed. Misaction/misinformation does not occur when a producer fails to take action or when an agency representative fails to warn a producer of the consequences of an action or did not tell a producer of a provision that might have been helpful. Benefits are not extended to a producer who had sufficient reason to know that the action or advice upon which he/she relied was improper or erroneous or when a producer relies on his/her own misunderstanding or misinterpretation of program provisions. It is not feasible for an employee to advise a producer of all of the possibilities that could affect his or her own participation, either positively or negatively. Employees are responsible to provide the most accurate information and service to the best of their ability when the information or service is requested by the producer. It is most important that producers be specific in requesting the service and information that will best serve their own individual needs or situation.

### USDA Electronic Services

Producers can conduct some business with the Farm Service Agency electronically. Producers must first create an account at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>. Producers will receive an e-mail confirmation within 1 hour. Within the e-mail producers must click on a prompt to activate the account; then, within seven days, present a valid photo ID to the local FSA office to upgrade to a Level 2 account. A Level 2 account will allow access to all of USDA's available e-Gov applications including e-LDP, customer statement, and payment and refund queries.

### 2007 Commodity Loans

Producers are reminded that commodity loans are available to producers for the 2007 crop through the following dates:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Wheat</b>          | <b>March 31, 2008</b> |
| <b>Corn, Soybeans</b> | <b>June 2, 2008</b>   |

### Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

### Final or Closing Dates

In general, if a final or closing date falls on a workday, that date is applicable. If a final or closing date falls on a non-workday, then the date is extended to the close of business on the next workday.

### Trust Agreements

Many individual landowners have established trust agreements of various types as a result of an estate planning process. The process usually involves an actual land transfer transaction from the individual owner to the trust entity. These transactions need to be reported to the Farm Service Agency because program documents require the signatures of the current owners of the farm.

**A 2008 farm bill has not been enacted as of the writing of this newsletter.**

### 2008 Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers are reminded that the final date to apply for NAP coverage is March 17, 2008 for many (but not all) fruit and vegetable crops and double-cropped soybeans in counties where the crop is not insurable. Late filed applications will not be approved. Contact your local FSA Office for more details about NAP. The Risk Management Agency sales closing date for most insurable spring-planted crops is also March 17, 2008.

### Change in Farming Operation/Address

Producers are reminded to contact the FSA office to report any change in a farming operation so that records can be kept current and accurate. Changes include, but are not limited to, farm ownership, farm operator, address, tax identification number, and agricultural use. Producers are required to verify, initial and date changes to their critical data when the request is made in person or by telephone. FSA offices work diligently to safeguard all personally identifiable information provided by participants.

### Loans for Grain Storage Facilities

Loans are available to producers to install eligible grain storage facilities under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. The term of the loan is seven years and a 15 percent down payment is required. The application process does take some time but producers can expedite the process by providing a balance sheet prepared within the last 90 days, a cash flow statement, and copies of tax records for the past 3 years. This information is needed to do a financial analysis determination. The January 2008 interest rate is 3.625 percent per annum. The interest rate for the loan term is set when the application is approved.

### Northwest Ohio FSA Offices

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Allen Co. FSA Office .....                | 419-223-0010 |
| Defiance Co. FSA Office.....              | 419-782-4781 |
| Fulton Lucas West Co. FSA Office .....    | 419-335-6061 |
| Hancock Co. FSA Office .....              | 419-422-5438 |
| Hardin Co. FSA Office .....               | 419-673-7238 |
| Henry Co. FSA Office .....                | 419-592-2926 |
| Ottawa Lucas East Co. FSA Office .....    | 419-898-2651 |
| Paulding Co. FSA Office .....             | 419-399-3841 |
| Putnam Co. FSA Office.....                | 419-523-4871 |
| Seneca Farm Loan Office.....              | 419-447-7071 |
| Williams Co. FSA Office .....             | 419-636-2057 |
| Wood Co. FSA Office .....                 | 419-352-5171 |
| Van Wert Co. FSA Office .....             | 419-238-6780 |
| NW Ohio District Director, Joel Obrecht . | 419-352-5171 |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, 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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Note: This newsletter provides a brief summary of program provisions and is not meant to be all-inclusive. Further information is available at local FSA offices and from FSA's Home Page at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).