



April 2007

## Ohio FSA State Newsletter

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### State Committee Member Appointed for the Ohio Farm Service Agency

Recently, The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of Bill Bayliss to the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee. Ohio's FSA State Executive Director, John Stevenson, stated, "Bill's former FSA experience will make him a valuable asset to the FSA State Committee and we welcome his insight and commitment to serve his fellow agricultural community".

FSA state committees are responsible for the general direction and supervision of state FSA programs. Committees keep farmers informed of agency program activities while resolving appeals and complaints. Members also maintain cooperative relationships with the agribusiness community.

Bill Bayliss resides in West Mansfield, located in Logan County, Ohio. He is a first generation farm owner and operator with over 35 years of experience. Bill currently raises grain crops, cattle and sheep on his farm.

Bill began his involvement with FSA back in 1968 serving on the Logan County Community Committee until 1984. While serving on the committee he held the position of Vice Chairman from 1977 through 1984. In 1984, Bill became the County Executive Director (CED) for Lorain County under the former Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) until 1991. Bill was then chosen by the Miami County Committee to serve as CED in Miami County until he retired from FSA in 2005.

Throughout his professional career Bill has been an active member in several associations such as; Ohio Young Farmers Association,

National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, Ohio Wheat Growers Association, American Sheep Improvement Association. He is also an active member with the West Mansfield Methodist Church serving as chairman for the long range planning committee and was the past president of the West Mansfield Lions Club to name a few organizations.

FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment and the American public through efficient and equitable administration of numerous farm programs. Each state executive director oversees FSA's responsibilities to farmers and ranchers within the state's boundaries and contributes feedback to assist the agency with policy decisions. FSA's farm programs include commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international export credit programs.

### DCP Enrollment Deadline Extended To August 3, 2007

Recently the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) **has been extended to August 3, 2007.**

The extension is due to issues involving the performance of the Farm Service Agency's web-based computer system. The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the DCP contract period.

## Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.



## Outreach Program

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and maybe made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. Some state governments also operate farm loan programs that are eligible for FSA guarantees. FSA typically guarantees up to 90 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm for three years;

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are: Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Contact the county office staff for details about this program.

## CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 Filing

The CCC-633-EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request form, is available to producers for requesting LDP benefits. The CCC-633 EZ must be completed annually in order to receive LDP benefits. The CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 must be filed before losing beneficial interest in the crop.

The CCC-633 EZ is a 2-part form consisting of multiple pages. Depending on your commodity, Pages 2 through 4 of the CCC-633 EZ must be completed to request the actual LDP benefit. Page 2, of the 633 EZ is applicable to feed grains, wheat, minor oilseeds, rice and pulses, while Page 4 of the 633 EZ is applicable to wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts.

Producers with Level 2 eAuthentication, who wish to submit their LDP requests online through the eLDP system, are required to submit a completed CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 to their FSA county office prior to the loss of beneficial interest. Form CCC-633 EZ, Page 1 must be filed with the county office before an eLDP can be filed from home.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to complete the 633 EZ, Page 1 at their earliest convenience, but before beneficial interest are lost on the commodity.





## New FSA State Policy for Seed Planted or Seeded on CRP Acres

Recently, the Ohio FSA State Committee agreed to State requirements for seed being planted or seeded on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice cover. The FSA State Seed Policy will reduce the risk of seed containing noxious weed seed from being used on CRP acres and goes further to ensure that the approved seeding mix does not include weed species, including noxious weed species. **This policy began April 1, 2007.** For more information on FSA State Seed Policy, contact your local FSA office.

The FSA State Policy for seed planted or seeded on CRP acres includes the following:

- Be purchased from an Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) registered vendor;
- Be labeled according to ODA Standards and other administrative rules of the Ohio Revised Code;
- Not contain prohibited noxious weed seed;
- Not contain more than one fourth of one percent by weight of restricted noxious weed seed;
- Not contain more than two and one half percent of all weed seed;
- Be sampled prior to planting if seed is not labeled according to ODA standards; and
- Not to be planted to CRP cover until all above seed quality requirements are met.

**Note:** The seed must be labeled properly for the participant(s) to receive CRP benefits.

The CRP Participant:

- Must work with seed vendors and/or contractors to resolve labeling and seed quality issues;
- May voluntarily request ODA to sample seed as a State certification of seed analysis;
- Shall assume the cost of seed sampling when purchased seed is not properly labeled;
- Must contact ODA if seed is not purchased from a vendor on ODA's Seed Registrant List (registered with ODA to sell seed in Ohio) or is not labeled according to ODA standards;
- Is responsible for assuring only seed that meets FSA State Seed Policy is planted on CRP acres; and
- Must submit evidence to FSA that seed used on CRP acres meets FSA State Seed Policy. Acceptable evidence for CRP program participation and cost share must include State approved labels from seed containers.

To reduce the risk of contaminated seed being used on CRP practice cover, all CRP participants must ensure all seed used to establish CRP practice cover meets FSA State Seed Policy.

Practice cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility. In addition to noxious weeds the participant must control other undesirable weeds that are not considered noxious, as determined by the County Committee (COC). Undesirable weeds may pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area if not controlled.

For more information on seed labeling requirements contact ODA at 614-728-6410. A list of ODA registered vendors can be obtained from your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.500%
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	4.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.000%

## FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity.

FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.



## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

## 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.**

## Dates to Remember

May 28	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices <b>Closed.</b>
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 certification date for small grains.
July 15	Final certification 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.

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