



# Tuscola County News

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## CRP General Signup 39

### Tuscola County USDA Service Center

### Tuscola County FSA

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### Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov  
www.sc.egov.usda.gov  
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### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Matt Zimba, Chairperson  
Bruce Findlay, Vice-Chair  
Duane Weber, Member  
Nancy Sylvestre, Advisor

### Staff

Patrice Baker,PT  
Dana Bennett, PT  
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Larry Wood, Field Asst.  
Angela Herford Loan Officer  
Karen Uberoth Technician  
Robert Catherwood FLM  
Jonathan Link, CED

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis, however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup August 2 through August 27, 2010.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002-2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance. Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## Commodity Loans

Wheat, corn and soybean loans are available again this year. Many producers used these loans to pay off lines of credit at year end, but still retain ownership of their grain for future sales opportunities. Loans for grain that is in storage are available again this year. 2010 crop loan rates have been established as follows:

White Wheat \$2.05	Red Wheat \$1.73	Corn \$1.92
Soybeans \$4.94	Oats \$1.38	Barley \$1.82

Wheat, oats and barley loans are available until March 31, 2011. Corn and soybean loans are available until May 31, 2011.

## Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres

DCP participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as “contract acres” must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Failure to control weeds on contract acres will cost you program benefits if the COC determines the producer failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available at great rates and terms! May interest rates are 3.250 to 4.125% depending of the term of the loan. Interest rates for June will be slightly different. For more information on facility loans please visit your FSA county office or visit

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



FARM SERVICE AGENCY



**Signatures**

Cash rent statements and/or signatures are due by September 30, 2010 for the 2010 crop year. Payments cannot be earned without these in place. Signatures received after this date cannot used to earn 2010 crop year payments.

**ACRE Yield Data Deadline Extended**

The deadline for 2009 production certification to comply with ACRE was extended until September 1, 2010. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2004 through 2008) and the actual farm yield (2009). Participants in the 2009 ACRE program must certify their yields by September 1, 2010 to remain eligible for ACRE benefits.

**Sodbuster and Swampbuster Provisions**

Most USDA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on highly erodible land planted to an annual crop, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). USDA participants are prohibited from converting wetlands for agricultural production purposes and planting an agricultural commodity on converted wetlands, as determined by NRCS. Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers come into the FSA office ahead of time to file an AD-1026 for referral to NRCS. **It is necessary for NRCS to review any actions which could result in the modification of an area determined wet.** This includes any clearing of trees or brush (including fence rows), draining, dredging, filling, or plans to install, maintain, or improve tile.

**FSA Farm Loans**

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
8/27/2010	CRP Bid period ends
9/30/2010	Cash rent statements due
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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