



NEWSLETTER



Clermont County FSA Office

1000 Locust ST
P.O. Box 38
Owensville, OH
45160-0038

513-732-2181 phone
513-732-6984 fax

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

January 2013

County Office Staff
Charlotte
Schmachtenberger,
County Executive
Director

Frankie Stith-Scott,
Farm Loan Manager

Sandy Wright,
Katrina Allen,
Program Technicians

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

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Mark Liming! Mark was re-elected to represent farmers from Monroe, Washington and Franklin townships on the county committee. Mark was elected to his third consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area # 1 are:

Mark Liming— Elected to the county committee (COC),
Scott Jennings— 1st alternate to COC,

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting after the election and determined Mark Liming will serve as the county committee chairman and Hal Herron will serve as vice-chairman. Doug Auxier completes the committee as the regular member.

Conservation Compliance Provisions Still Apply

The conservation compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, continue to apply. Anyone who converts a wetland for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible shall be ineligible for specified USDA program benefits during the crop year which the violation occurred and each subsequent year, until the converted wetland is restored or mitigated prior to the beginning of such calendar year.

Accordingly, anyone who converted a wetland during 2012 (up to and including December 31, 2012) is ineligible for 2012 and subsequent year benefits; **anyone who converts a wetland during calendar year 2013 is ineligible for 2013 and subsequent year benefits.**

Please contact the Clermont County FSA office at 513-732-2181 with any questions **BEFORE you remove any shrubs or trees or BEFORE breaking out new ground and BEFORE crops are planted.**

LDPs for Wool and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2013, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for wool and unshorn pelts produced during the 2012 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the wool and pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

County Committee Minority Advisors

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for under-represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under-represented on county committees.



Eligibility requirements for COC Advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area;
- be willing and available to serve as an advisor, if appointed; and
- indicate in writing their willingness to serve.

Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attend each COC meeting, including executive sessions;
- participate in all deliberations;
- increase awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions;
- help to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career;
- active soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process; and
- be able to perform special duties at COC's request.

Note: Advisors do not have authority to sign documents.

Interested individuals should submit a written letter that outlines their abilities and qualifications, as well as their willingness to serve, postmarked by Jan. 25, 2013. The Clermont County Committee will review these submissions and recommend a minority advisor to the Ohio FSA State Committee. The Ohio FSA State Committee will appoint the minority advisor, whose term will begin March 1st, 2013. County Committee advisors serve for a 12-month period not to exceed 9 consecutive years. Interested individuals should mail their letters to the Clermont County Farm Service Agency, 1000 Locust ST P.O. Box 38, Owensville, Ohio, 45160-0038. If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Charlotte Schmachtenberger, County Executive Director at 513-732-2181 ext. 2, or by email at charlotte.schmachtenberger@oh.usda.gov.

Changes to IRS Forms 1099-G and 1099-Misc for Calendar Year 2012

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G were issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, the 1099-G reporting has changed.

IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers) will only be issued to producers whose reportable payments total \$600 or more for the calendar year. Additionally, if the producer has at least \$600 in reportable payments received from multiple FSA offices, only one Form 1099-G will be issued. Producers subject to voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding will receive the appropriate IRS form, even if combined payments are less than \$600.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Any producer who receives less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

For more information regarding IRS reporting changes, please contact the Clermont County FSA office at 513-732-2181.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verified according to agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Selected Interest Rates for January 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	1.875%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

FSA Reminds Producers That All Counties in Ohio Were Designated as Primary or Contiguous Natural Disaster Areas

The Clermont Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers about the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial designation on Sept. 5, 2012. All of Ohio's counties were designated as primary or contiguous agricultural natural disaster areas due to drought and excessive heat that occurred from February 1, 2012 and continuing.

This gives all qualified farm operators in the designated areas the opportunity to file an application for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

USDA FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. Other programs available to assist farmers include the Emergency Conservation Program and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Not applying early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data through Financial Inquires for FSA Producers. The site is available under Online Services on the Ohio FSA webpage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh>.

If you need to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt, or 1099G – USDA Level 2 customers can go here to view financial information.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Help Grow Your Farm Future -- 2012 Ag Census Survey Begins!

America's farmers and producers have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census captures a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them.

Census data is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. Companies and cooperatives can use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers. Often legislators use the information when shaping farm policies and programs.

As preparations continue for this year's Census of Agriculture, we call on farmers and ranchers to share their stories, ask questions and talk to their fellow producers about this critical effort. Your answers to the Census help grow your farm future; shape farm programs; and boost services for you, your community and your industry.

NASS will mail out Census forms in late December, and responses are due by **February 4th, 2013**. Producers also have the option to complete their forms online. After all, the Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828).

For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can continue to file claims until March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

- **Website:** www.farmerclaims.gov; **Phone:** 1-888-508-4429
- **Claims Period:** Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2012 LDPs for wool and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2013 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
April 1	Final Availability for 2012 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

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