



NEWSLETTER



Crawford County FSA Office

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Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

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

June 2011

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Director

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

Ohio FSA Announces Deadline Extension to Report Prevented Planting

Due to Ohio's weather creating delays in planting, the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the date to timely report prevented planting to July 15, 2011, to coincide with the crop reporting deadline.

"Ohio's weather has created delays in planting, which may result in difficulty of timely reporting prevented acreage," said Jim Greve, Crawford county executive director. "With the extension, producers will be able to file form CCC-576, Notice of Loss for prevented planting of corn and soybeans at the same time as filing annual acreage reports which are also due by July 15th."

Producers are reminded to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by June 30 for small grains and by July 15 for all other crops.

Prevented planting acreage, or acreage that could not be planted because of wet field conditions or other natural disaster, should be reported to FSA by July 15th. This includes crops covered by crop insurance

or the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Producers should contact their local FSA office or crop insurance agent to verify final planting dates for all crops since they vary among counties and crop types.

For crop losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent to file a Notice of Loss. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

To report prevented acreage, producers must complete Form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, for affected crops.

If a producer misses the reporting deadline for prevented planting, they may still report prevented planting acreage as long as the disaster condition may be verified by a paid for field visit. If the acreage was timely reported to insurance and supports the crop information reported to FSA, the fee may be waived. This crop insurance exception does not apply to NAP.

Producers may contact their local county FSA office if they have any questions about prevented and failed reporting or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

The Crawford County Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 15 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops 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.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire. 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.

COC Election Nominations



From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Crawford County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAA's, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

An election will be held for the Crawford County Committee position for LAA-1 that includes the townships of Texas, Lykens, Chatfield, Cranberry, and Auburn.

The Crawford County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Crawford County Committee. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Crawford County FSA office. You may also go on-line and download the form from our Ohio FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Talk to the Crawford County Committee, Jim Greve, County Executive Director at (419)562-8936 or stop in the office located at 3115 State Route 98, Bucyrus for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to

learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 15 through August 1**. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2011. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 4. Dec. 5 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2012.

2011 Compliance and Spot-Check Review

Compliance and spot-checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot-check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot-check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the following programs: ALAP, ACRE, CRP maintenance and practice checks, DCP, ELAP, FSA-578's, HELC/WC compliance, LDP's/MAL's, LFP, LIP, MILC, NAP, TAP and SURE.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2011 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot-check list.

FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. For more information about the new spot-check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local FSA office for additional clarification.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

2009 SURE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program continues until July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. USDA encourages producers who suffered losses during the 2009 crop year to visit their local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program.

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;

Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit the Crawford county office or the website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the Crawford County FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	3.500%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Crawford county producers can now visit; www.crawfordcountynow.com for weekly FSA news postings.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP and CREP acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All CRP and CREP maintenance activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season is March 1 through July 15th. Spot treatment of the acreage to control noxious and invasive species may be allowed during the primary nesting season if prior approval is received from FSA County Committee.

Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at:

http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0211-0211A_081217V02.pdf.

The FSA-211 form obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
July 29	Last day to sign-up for the 2009 SURE program.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Sept. 1	Deadline to submit the 2010 Production Certification for the Farm Benchmark Yield and the Actual Farm Yield for the ACRE program.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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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."