



# NEWSLETTER



## Crawford County FSA Office

3115 State Route 98  
Bucyrus, Ohio, 44820

419-562-8936 Phone  
419-562-8815 Fax

### Hours

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

## August 2012

### County Office Staff

Jim Greve,  
County Executive  
Director

John Varner,  
Farm Loan Manager

Heather Hiler,  
Kate Brause,  
Gail Walter,  
Monica Finney, Temp  
Program Technicians

Randy Hiler,  
Ray Greenick,  
Field Reporters

Steve Miller,  
Rick Niese,  
Allen Schimpf,  
County Committee

Mindy Sellman,  
Minority Advisor

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

## Producers Must Report Crop Losses to FSA

Producers must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent, this includes crops covered by crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 - "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program."

## USDA Announces Emergency Haying and Grazing Available to Help Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced additional drought relief for Ohio's livestock producers today. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack authorized the release of emergency haying and grazing lands for all Ohio counties for certain practices and acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

USDA will allow acres under CRP to be used for haying or grazing under emergency conditions. This will allow lands that are not yet classified as "under severe drought" but that are "abnormally dry" to be used for haying and grazing. This will increase available forage for livestock.

- Under emergency haying at least fifty percent of each field or contiguous fields must be left unhayed for wildlife. Under emergency grazing at least twenty-five percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields must be left ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than seventy-five percent of the stocking rate as determined by NRCS.

- Under emergency haying and grazing CRP participants will be assessed a payment reduction based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental payment times ten percent.
- Participants may sell hay harvested under emergency provisions. CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the haying or grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer.

CRP is a voluntary program that provides producers annual rental payments on their land in exchange for planting resource conserving crops on cropland to help prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat and improve the environment.

Producers must notify the Crawford County FSA office and file a request and receive approval before starting this emergency haying and grazing activity.

## Ohio FSA Authorizes Additional CRP Practices for Emergency Grazing and Haying

In response to the continued drought conditions, the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced the addition of 5 CRP practices that livestock producers and other participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will now be able to emergency hay and graze. Many of these additional acres have wetland-related characteristics and are likely to

contain better quality hay and forage than on other CRP acres.

The list of eligible practices has been expanded to include:

- CP8A (grass waterways) – haying and grazing available
- CP23 (wetland restoration) – haying and grazing available
- CP23A (wetland restoration, non-floodplain) – haying and grazing available
- CP25 (rare and declining habitat (oak savanna, wetland complexes, tall grass prairies))
  - Oak Savannas – **haying only**
  - Wetland Complexes – haying and grazing
  - Tall Grass Prairies – haying and grazing
- CP27/CP28 (farmable wetlands pilot wetland and buffer) – haying and grazing available



Eligible producers who are interested in haying or grazing CRP under the emergency authorization, and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for haying or grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval from the Crawford County FSA office and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Prior to implementation of emergency haying or grazing, a conservation plan must be developed that complies with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. This plan must be completed by NRCS. If potential negative impacts of haying and grazing on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat are identified, it is not likely the land would be approved for these activities.

Emergency haying is authorized through August 31, 2012. Emergency grazing is authorized through September 30, 2012. At least 50% of each field shall be left unhayed for wildlife. At least 25% of each field shall be left ungrazed for wildlife (or graze not more than 75 percent of the stocking rate determined by NRCS).

CRP is a voluntary program that provides producers annual rental payments on their land in exchange for planting resource conserving crops on cropland to help prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat and improve the environment. Producers must file a request and receive approval from the Crawford County FSA office before starting emergency haying and grazing activity.

## June MILC Payments for Dairy Producers

Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income

Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of June. USDA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations.

The MILC payment trigger price of \$16.94 is adjusted upward when the National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for a month is greater than \$7.35 per cwt. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service releases the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost monthly. Using this information, the MILC payment trigger for the month of June has been adjusted to \$21.53, for a final MILC payment rate of \$1.3677491 per hundredweight.

For more information about the MILC program, please visit the Crawford County FSA office or go online to: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/milc2011.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/milc2011.pdf).

## Crawford County Farm Service Agency Provides Free Online News Service

Keeping up with the times is now a little easier using the Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) GovDelivery system. GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information. Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, participants can choose to receive federal farm program information by topic, state and/or county.

"Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest," stated Jim Greve, FSA Executive Director for Crawford County.

Anyone can sign-up for the GovDelivery system to receive free USDA information. The GovDelivery system allows farmers, bankers, crop insurance agents, practically anyone interested in receiving program updates and reminders within USDA agencies to sign-up to receive information electronically. FSA is utilizing GovDelivery to electronically provide agency news updates and program reminders directly to the customer's inbox, Smartphone and through text messaging.

"Customers who do not wish to use the GovDelivery system will still receive some information in the mail, however it will be severely reduced," said Greve. FSA will rely on free local radio and newspaper media to get information out.

"With so much discussion about the Farm Bill this year, it will be important for FSA to communicate with our customers about new program announcements or if legislation has extended our current programs," added Greve.

Farmers can visit the Crawford County FSA office and register for free email updates or go online to [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe) and follow the online options. Participants will be asked to provide their email addresses and cell phone numbers.

## Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## Electronic Services Available

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at:  
<https://identitymanager.eems.usda.gov/registration/index.aspx> and then click on "Register for a Level 2 Account" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:  
<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home> and then click on the "Login" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "I Agree" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and Password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income

(AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to the Crawford County FSA Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from Crawford County FSA and NRCS offices or online at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccc931>.

## Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

## Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC)

Producers intending to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will make HEL and wetland technical determinations as applicable. Failure to obtain ADVANCE approval for any of these situations may result in the loss of program eligibility and payments. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements per their conservation plan.

**Selected Interest Rates for  
August 2012**

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
<i>Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year</i>	<i>1.000%</i>
<i>Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year</i>	<i>1.625%</i>
<i>Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year</i>	<i>1.875%</i>
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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**Dates to Remember**

Aug. 1	<b>Final date</b> to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	<b>Last day</b> to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	<b>Deadline</b> to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2012.
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Sept. 30	HEL Initiative sign-up concludes.
Oct. 8	Columbus Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

**Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount, not to exceed \$250,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities in Ohio are eligible for FSFL:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas;
- Hay;
- Honey;
- Renewable biomass; and
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program, contact the Crawford County FSA office or visit the FSA Price Support website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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