

June 2014



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Wyandot County Ohio FSA Office

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County Committee:
Jerry Murphy, Chairman
Chuck Bigler, Vice Chairman

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nomination Period Begins June 15

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated. 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, additional seats may be up for election.

An election will be held for the Wyandot County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Richland, Salem, Crane and Eden.

Farmers and landowners may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Nomination forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received at the Wyandot County FSA office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014. Elections will take place this fall.

Henry, Bills, member
Connie Iles, advisor

Next County Committee
Meeting: July 24, 2014 at 8:30
a.m.

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

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, 2014. Ballots are due back to the FSA office either via mail or in person by Dec. 1, 2014. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2015.

For more information, contact the Wyandot County FSA office or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

USDA Announces Programs to Conserve Sensitive Land and Help Beginning Farmers

Farmers and landowners committed to protecting and conserving environmentally sensitive land may sign up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) beginning June 9. The Secretary also announced that retiring farmers enrolled in CRP could receive incentives to transfer a portion of their land to beginning, disadvantaged or veteran farmers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP).

CCRP provides incentives to producers who utilize conservation methods on environmentally-sensitive lands. For example, farmers are monetarily compensated for establishing long-term vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Under continuous sign-up authority, eligible land can be enrolled in CRP at any time with contracts of up to 10 to 15 years in duration. In lieu of a general sign-up this year, USDA will allow producers with general CRP contracts expiring this September to have the option of a one-year contract extension. In addition, the new grassland provisions, which will allow producers to graze their enrolled land, will enable producers to do so with more flexibility.

The Transition Incentives Program provides two additional years of payments for retired farmers and landowners who transition expiring CRP acres to socially disadvantaged, military veteran, or beginning producers who return the land to sustainable grazing or crop production. Sign up will also begin June 9. TIP funding was increased by more than 30 percent in the 2014 Farm Bill, providing up to \$33 million through 2018.

As part of the 2014 Farm Bill, participants meeting specific qualifications may have the opportunity to terminate their CRP contract during fiscal year 2015 if the contract has been in effect for a minimum of five years and if other conditions are also met.

Contact the Wyandot County FSA office or view the Continuous CRP factsheet and the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) factsheet for more information.

Mid-Contract CRP Cover Management

The Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Pheasants Forever (PF) developed a State Mid-Contract Management (MCM) team. The State MCM team completes site evaluations of each CRP grass practice and determine the appropriate Mid-Contract Management activity options based on the existing cover.

So how will this MCM team evaluation have an effect on CRP participants? Well, all CRP participants with contracts effective beginning with sign-up 26 are required to perform management activities as part of their approved conservation plan. All CRP participants with contracts before sign-up 26 can perform management activities, voluntarily. If participants voluntarily request to revise the conservation plan, the management activities will be the same terms and conditions established for the required management activities.

Required activities shall be designed to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits, while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are designed to be site specific and used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site. Cost-sharing up to 50 percent of a flat rate, is available for most management practices including light disking and interseeding.

Management activities must not be performed during the primary nesting period or brood rearing season, which in Ohio is March 1-July 15. Failure to perform planned management activities can result in contract violation.

The Wyandot County FSA office will be contacting you later this summer if your CRP contract is due for MCM this year. Practice cover evaluations of these practices by the MCM team will be conducted this summer.

Contact the Wyandot County FSA office for details concerning your CRP mid-contract management activities

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Wyandot County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Wyandot County:

- June 20, 2014 ---- Prevented Planted Corn
- July 5, 2014 ---- Prevented Planted Soybeans
- July 15, 2014 --- Report all your Cabbage (Planted 3/19/14-5/31/14), Corn, Conservation Reserve Program, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Tomatoes and all other crops.
- Aug. 15, 2014 --- Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/14-7/20/14).
- Sept. 30, 2014 --- Report Aquaculture.
- Dec. 15, 2014 --- Fall Barley, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Wyandot County FSA office at Phone 419-294-2127 or 419-294-1658.

2013 ACRE Program Reports

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for small grains and other crops by July 15, 2014. Production reports may be submitted by the 2013 crop year operator, owner or other producer with an interest in the reported acreage. Failure to file a production report (FSA-658) for a farm enrolled in ACRE will result in the farm's producers being ineligible for any ACRE contract payments and the actual yield used to determine future benchmark farm yields will be zero.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Part Time Program Technician Transfers

We wish Susan Sampson good luck as she continues working for Farm Service Agency as a full time Program Technician at Wood County.

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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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