



NEWSLETTER



Ohio FSA State Office

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Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 2013

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

CRP General Sign-Up Ends June 14th

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up 45 ends June 14, 2013. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 319,000 acres are enrolled in CRP in Ohio. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 55,000 acres of CRP in Ohio are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

More information about the CRP general sign-up can be found [online](#) or contact your local FSA office.

Acreage & Crop Reporting Requirements

Producers are reminded of the ANNUAL acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. The acreage reporting deadlines for 2013 are as follows:

- July 15th for any spring-seeded crops (corn & soybeans), fruits and vegetables, cabbage planted by May 31st , forage crops;
- August 15th for CRP and cabbage planted between June 1st and July 20th; and
- December 15th for wheat and other fall seeded crops.

Prevented planted and failed cropland acres that will not be brought to harvest have slightly different timelines.

- Prevented planting acres must be reported within 15 calendar days of the Federal Crop Insurance Companies (FCIC) established ending planting dates. For corn, the FCIC ending planting date is June 5, and for soybeans the ending planting date is June 20.
- Failed acreage must be reported to FSA

before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Failure to timely report prevented planting acres may result in loss of potential disaster assistance, as well as maintaining cropping history.

- For crop losses 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.

Missing any of these deadlines could cause FSA payments to be held and a late filing penalty fee to be charged. So, please contact the BLANK county FSA office if you have any questions or to set up an appointment to report your crop acreages.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain CRP acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All CRP maintenance activities must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. The primary nesting season is March 1st 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.

County Committee Nominations

From **June 17 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the 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.

The Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the 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 FSA offices and [online](#).

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 County Committee, County Executive Director or stop in the office 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 17 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, 2013. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 4. Dec. 2 is the last day to return voted

ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan.1, 2014.

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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups (SDA) to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;

- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s median farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

Note: All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in a business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Ranchers and more basic qualifications required, contact your county FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.000%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

DCP Deadline Reminder

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign-up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. [Read more about DCP](#) or contact your county FSA office for more information, or to setup an appointment.

2012 ACRE Program Production Reports

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for 2012 are required to report 2012 production to be used to compute 2012 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2013 benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2012 production reports is **July 15, 2013** for small grains and other crops. Production reports may be submitted by the 2012 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.

2012 ACRE Benchmark Farm Yields

Producers that participated in the ACRE program for program year 2012 must establish a benchmark farm yield for each covered commodity that was planted. A benchmark farm yield is the Olympic average of the average yield per planted acre for the farm for the 5 most recent crop years. For 2012, the benchmark farm yield is comprised of data from crop years 2008 through 2012. Because of situations where producers did not have control of farms for the preceding 5 years or a specific covered commodity may not have been planted on the farm in 1 or more of the preceding 5 crop years, “plug yields” were established by commodity and county. Producers may use the ACRE plug yield to establish the benchmark farm yield or may report production evidence.

Production must be reported on form FSA-658. Producers will be required to certify, but not submit, the documents to support their production at the time FSA-658 is filed. However, the documentation will be required at a later date to verify the reported production. The production reporting deadlines to establish the 2012 benchmark farm yields is July 15, 2013 for small grains and other crops.

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 the County FSA office or [online](#).

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



Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Special 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.

Dates to Remember	
June 14	CRP General sign-up ends.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date to report burley tobacco; cabbage planted through May 31; corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, popcorn, sugar beets, tomatoes and other crops.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 1	Deadline to request re-enrollment of continuous CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2013.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 2	Deadline to sign-up for DCP.

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To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."