



# NEWSLETTER



## Crawford County FSA Office

3115 State Route 98  
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

(419) 562 8936  
Telephone

(855) 832 5973  
Fax

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

## August 2014

### FSA County Staff

**Trevor Kerr**,  
County Executive  
Director

**Pam Sparks**, Acting  
Farm Loan Manager

**Kate Brause**,  
Program Technician

**Heather Hiler**,  
Program Technician

**Gail Walter**,  
Program Technician

**Next County  
Committee Meeting:**  
September 24, 2014  
at 8:30 AM.

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

## Note from the CED's Desk

The Crawford County FSA is excited to begin the rollout of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Information on new programs continues to be released. Participants are encouraged to keep a look out for farm bill public meetings later this year once provisions are released.

CRP enrollment is underway; interested producers should contact the Crawford FSA to express interest to avoid delay. Participants with current acres in CRP are encouraged to contact FSA immediately with any damage reports on existing acreage. There may be cost share available to repair these acres, ensuring an environmentally functional CRP practice.

Written notifications from USDA National Office are underway to operators and owners that provide updates of their current base acres, yields and 2008-2012 planting history. You are encouraged to cross check your letter with your farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time, but if the letter is incomplete or incorrect contact the FSA office. The letters do not account for reconstitutions completed in years within that timeframe, if there are tracts of land with different owners within a single farm serial number.

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm's acreage history is a required early step for enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Later this summer, farmers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in the spring of 2015.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014](#)

[Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

## USDA Reminds Owners & Operators of the 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

Changes mandated through the 2014 Farm Bill require producers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 form must be on file with the FSA. Since many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs have this requirement, most producers should already have an AD-1026 on file. If producers have not filed, they must do so **by June 1, 2015**.

When a farmer completes the AD-1026, FSA and NRCS staff will outline any additional actions that may be required for compliance with the provisions. The Risk Management Agency, through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible

land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs.



FSA strongly encourages owners/operators to make the following considerations:

Before you buy or rent new ground, request a statement from the landlord/seller granting them access to FSA records to determine beforehand if there is current Compliance violations or of any potential violations.

Open communication is important between all parties before violations occur; so that all parties are aware of current/past/potential violations. If the acreage has a violation and you would plant a commodity on the acres: even though you may have not committed the violation, you are now out of compliance. The same is true when purchasing acreage – the violation is permanently attached to the land.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#). USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support.

## **FSA Committee Election**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. The three member board will serve three-year terms.

The 2014 FSA election includes the townships of Texas, Lykens, Chatfield, Cranberry & Auburn.

The 2015 FSA election includes the townships of Tod, Holmes, Liberty, Sandusky & Vernon.

The 2016 FSA election includes the townships of Dallas, Bucyrus, Whetstone, Jefferson, Polk & Jackson.

For more information, contact the Crawford 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>.

## **Acreage Reporting Reminder**

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Crawford County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Crawford County:

- July 15, 2014 -- Report all your Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Soybeans and all other crops.
- 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 Crawford County FSA office at (419) 562 8936 (Ext. 2).

## When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application. "Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed," said Kerr.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

## Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Continues

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to the FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

## Emergency Assistance for Livestock & Honeybees (ELAP):

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. For 2014 to 2017 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1 of the applicable calendar year.

Producers are encouraged to contact the Crawford County FSA within 30 days of the loss. For more information, producers can review the LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with the Crawford County FSA Office at 419 562 8936, (Ext. 2).

Everyone is encouraged to visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) for assistance and resources available from a variety of federal agencies.

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign individuals who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English & Spanish translations and [online](#).

## Changes

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report any change in a farming operation so that records can be kept current and accurate. Changes include, but are not limited to, farm ownership, farm operator, address, tax identification number, and agricultural use.

Producers may complete an AD-2047 form to request records changes and provide an email address to receive electronic newsletters. Due to budget constraints, this is the final newsletter the Crawford FSA office is mailing. If you are not currently subscribed to Gov Delivery to receive information – contact the Crawford County FSA immediately. The Crawford County FSA will continue to have a printed copy of any newsletter/bulletin available in the lobby.

Before a farm operator change may be made, the landowner must provide the FSA office with a written statement or copy of a cash lease or verbal verification. It is also very important that FSA is notified of ownership, address, and banking or entity changes promptly

## 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.

Dates to Remember	
Oct 1	Deadline to obtain 2015 NAP coverage for Rye, Barley and Speltz
Oct 1	Final day to purchase NAP coverage for barley
Nov 3	Ballot mailed to LAA1 for 2014 COC election
Nov 20	Final day to purchase NAP coverage for hay
Dec 1	Ballot to be postmarked or returned to FSA office
Continuous	CRP enrollment

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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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."