

December 10, 2014



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Belmont/Monroe County FSA Updates

Belmont/Monroe County County Committee Election FSA Office Results

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Belmont County:
Sam Raber
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Monroe County:
David Drake
Phone: 740-454-2824

Next County Committee Meeting: January 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in... Barbara Ackerman was elected to represent LAA 3 in Monroe County.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on January 1, 2015, and join the existing committee.

For 2015, the Committee members will be Charles Schaefer, Dale Dietrich, Stanley Borovich, Clayton Farnsworth, Stephen Wharton and Barbara Ackerman. Louella Urbanek of Beallsville currently serves as Advisor to the Committee.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact the Belmont/Monroe County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

MPP-Dairy Program Registration Deadline Extended

The MPP-Dairy registration deadline of December 5, 2014, has been extended a second time to give producers additional time to register for coverage in 2014 and 2015. Dairy producers may continue to register their dairy operations under MPP-Dairy through **COB December 19, 2014**, for coverage for September through December 2014 and coverage for calendar year 2015.

The MPP-Dairy program is a voluntary program that provides dairy operations with risk management coverage that will compensate producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average cost of feed falls below a certain level selected by the producers in a dairy operation.

Eligible producers can obtain either a catastrophic level of coverage for their dairy operation by paying a \$100 administrative fee annually or they may obtain increased coverage at various levels by paying a premium in addition to the administrative fee. A dairy operation's selection of a \$4.00 coverage level with a coverage percentage of 90 is considered the catastrophic level of coverage. Indemnity payments under the program will be triggered when margins fall below the producer-selected levels.

Available price coverage levels begin at \$4.00 and coverage may be increased in \$.50 increments through \$8.00 per hundredweight. Available coverage percentages begin at 25 percent and coverage may be increased in 5 percent increments through 90 percent.

Dairy producers are encouraged to use the online resource at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation.

Farm Bill Public Meeting January 15, 2015

The Belmont/Monroe County Farm Service Agency and the Ohio State Extension Service has scheduled a Farm Bill meeting on Thursday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Belmont/Monroe Farm Service Agency located at 1119 E Main St, Barnesville. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The meeting is to educate farm producers and landowners about the 2014 Farm Bill Programs (Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage). Producers who participate in the meeting will learn about the ARC and PLC programs, how to get signed up for the new program and how to use the online decision tool.

The new programs, [Agricultural Risk Coverage \(ARC\)](#) and [Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\)](#), are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, legislation that ended direct payments. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses.

To help farmers choose between ARC and PLC, USDA FSA helped create online tools that allow farmers to enter information about their operation and see projections about what each program will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information about the meeting, please contact CED Christy Collins at 740-425-2300 extension 2 or by contacting the Levi Morrow at the Washington County OSU Extension Service at 740-376-7431 .

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact CED Christy Collins at 740-425-2300 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by January 5, 2014.

Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,392,000 starting on October 1, 2014. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,692,000.

For detailed information, call to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. Belmont County producers should call Sam Raberl at 330-339-5585; Monroe County producers should call David Drake at 740-454-2824.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).