

Huff Run Watershed Agriculture Newsletter

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National Headline: FSA's ACRE Program

As authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the Farm Service Agency is now administering a new program beginning in crop year 2009 called the **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)**. Through this new program, USDA offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments. You can still elect to participate in

based on price and yield movements relative to the guarantee.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

If you are interested in electing this option the **deadline is August 14th, 2009** and you are encouraged to contact your state extension or local FSA office to help evaluate your choices.

More information can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov or For Carroll

County contact: (330)627-5536

(Carrollton). For Tuscarawas County contact: (330) 339-5585 (New Philadelphia).

Information from USDA press release no. 0220.09 "Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Urges Producers to Learn About New ACRE Program" and FSA website.



ACRE even if you have already accepted advanced payments under DCP. This additional option allows producers to help better manage the risks associated with farming.

The FSA states that "ACRE payments are based on what the producer actually plants, with payments calculated using recent market prices." This is a state level revenue guarantee that binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the final crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. With the many challenges associated with farming today, this option is an additional risk management tool that producers may want to look into. ACRE is a revenue-based approach that sets payments

Agriculture- Natural Resource-Conservation Expo 2009

Remember to keep **Saturday September 12th, 2009** open on your calendar to attend this year's Agriculture Expo hosted by Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, and Stark County's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Expo will be held at the same location as in the past, near Augusta (McClester Farm, 4071 Meter Rd. NE, Mechanicstown, OH). The event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Featured Speakers include: Gary Zimmer, Steve Groff, and Parker Bosley. Gary Zimmer is a farmer, author, agribusiness man and educator dedicated to biological agriculture. He is recognized around the world for his dedication to improving agriculture through restoring soils. Steve Groff owns a 200 acre vegetable and crop farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Parker Bosley currently works for North Union Farmers Market, a non-profit organization that manages six producer-only market sites in the greater Cleveland area. He is known as one of the most important advocates of local foods and local agriculture in the Midwest. Frank Kipe of Micro Dairy Designs will also be attending.

There are many different tents at this event that will focus on: watersheds, energy, forestry, soil and water, wildlife, pasture management, and small farms. Come visit Huff Run at the soil and water tent!

In addition to the main event on Saturday the 12th, there will be events the evening of September 11th. In the evening there will be a pond clinic with Steve Fender from Fender's Fish Hatchery, an advanced grazing pasture walk with Bob Hendershot (NRCS) and Jeff McCutcheon (OSU Extension), and a presentation by Steve Prebonick of ODNr Division of Soil and Water conservation. All programs will begin at 6 p.m. at the Expo site. Then the advanced grazing pasture walk will proceed to a nearby grass-based dairy.

For more information visit the Expo's website:

www.anrcexpo.com



Area of Focus: Results From 2007 Agriculture Census



The 2007 Census of Agriculture has revealed many interesting trends among American Farms. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted a Census of Agriculture in 2007 and released the following information early this spring.

The census showed that there is a growing diversity in many areas of U.S. farming along with the number of farms growing four percent from the last census in 2002. The 2007 Census counted 2,204,792 farms in the U.S. This showed that nearly 300,000 new farms have begun operation since the last census. These new farms were found to have more diversified production, fewer acres, lower sales, and younger operators who also worked another job other than the farm.

Farm operators were also found to have become more diverse than in the past with nearly 30 percent more women as the main farm operator, those of Hispanic descent grew by ten percent along with American Indian, Asian, and Black farm operators increasing too.

However, the 2007 Census showed that mid-sized farm operations were decreasing, showing a trend toward either small or very large farms. It also showed that the majority of U.S. farms are small operations with more than 36 percent being labeled "residential/ lifestyle farms." These smaller farms have sales less than \$250,000 annually and the operators tend to have another occupation other than farming. In addition, 21 percent of these farms are retirement farms where the operator is retired.

The 2007 Census reports not only on operator demographics and economic aspects of farming but also considers other data including organic, value-added and specialty production. All of these areas are on the rise in America. Also, questions about on

-farm energy generation, community-supported agriculture arrangements and historic barns were included for the first time.

When looking at the results from Ohio, the number of farms went from 77,797 in 2002 to 75,861 in 2007. Family or individual farms decreased slightly from 70,890 in 2002 to 66,382 in 2007, while corporate farms increased from 1,843 in 2002 to 2,956 in 2007. The average size of a farm has gone down slightly with 187 acres in 2002 to 184 acres in 2007. More information about Ohio Farms can be accessed on the website: www.agcensus.usda.gov.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years and is a complete count of American farms and ranches along with their operators. These results can be broken down on the website into states, watersheds, and even counties. You can access all the data at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Information for this article was from USDA press release no. 0036.09 "Census of Agriculture Shows Growing Diversity in U.S. Farming" and online at www.agcensus.usda.gov

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 2009 Farm Day with Tuscarawas Soil and Water Office. Saturday, August 1 from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. (3784 Penrod Rd NW, Sugarcreek near Barrs Mills). Check the website for more details: www.tuscsol.com or call the Tuscarawas County SWCD Office: (330) 339-7976
- ◆ Mineral City Party in the Park and Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile– August 16th, noon – 8 p.m.
- ◆ Agriculture– Natural Resource– Conservation Expo 2009: September 11th – 6:00 p.m., September 12th– 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. held near Augusta, Ohio (McClester Farm, 4071 Meter Rd. NE Mechanicstown, Ohio)
- ◆ September 21-27 Tuscarawas County Fair!



New Local Foods Website! By: Eric Earnhardt

For those farmers struggling to find a practical way to connect to local food markets, who wish to participate in a more community oriented economy but have difficulty uniting with interested customers, a new framework for local foods markets may be the answer.

This concept is called the "foodshed" approach. Like its cousin, the watershed, the term foodshed refers to an area into which harvests from participating farms congregate into a flow of foodstuffs back into the community, just like water flows from surrounding hills to form a creek, stream, or river (like Huff Run). Imagine that instead of a storm bringing water that runs off ridges into streams it brought wheat, corn, rice, and veggies that ran off fields into, say, a produce

auction, farmer's market, or CSA agreement.

A new website spearheaded by Rural Action's Sustainable Agriculture Program has had success applying this theoretical approach to Ohio. On ohiofoodshed.org you can find lists of farmer's markets, produce auctions, and CSA's across the state listed by county. You can easily see which markets fit your individual needs as a producer or a consumer and get help tapping into the growing population of restaurants, grocers, and individuals who are seeking those ever more popular (and lucrative) local products that sell not only because of their freshness but also because of their benefits to society.

More people than ever realize that local food is less prone to terrorist attack and indus-

trial contamination; it is fresher, often produced more humanely with fewer pesticides and with more thought given to soil and water conservation while generally providing a more fulfilling lifestyle for food producers and everyone else in the "foodshed."

Check out www.ohiofoodshed.org today and see for yourself how to get involved in this exciting new concept. You can even join the Ohio-

OHIO FOODSHED
ONLINE COMMUNITY



