



Shiawassee County News

June 2010

Issue No. #2

**Shiawassee County FSA
USDA Service Center**
1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867
989-723-8263, Ext. 2
989-723-8491 (fax)

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.sc.egov.usda.gov
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Nicholas Zdunic
George J. Zmitko
John T. Stasa
Julia Birchmeier - Advisor

**COC meets the 2nd Thursday of
each month.**

Staff

Louri Miller, PT
Larry Godfrey, PT
Nancy Vogl, PT
Bernadette Schneider, PT
Field Assistant
William Darnell

County Executive Director
Jayne A. Van Ness

Farm Loan Manager
David Hemker
Staff
Michelle Bailey

Dates to Remember

June 15 – Deadline to submit
forms CCC-927/928 to IRS
June 30 – Deadline to report
fall-seeded small grains
July 5 – Office closed in obser-
vance of Independence Day
July 15
– Deadline to report spring-
seeded crops
– Deadline to report CRP
acreage.
– Deadline to report 2009 NAP
production.
August 1 – Deadline to request
Farm changes for 2010
Ongoing
– Farm Storage Facility Loans
– Continuous CRP & CREP



Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans are
available at great rates and terms!
June interest rates are 3.00% to
3.875% depending on the term of the
loan. Loan terms range from 7 years to 12
years depending on the amount financed.

www.fsa.usda.gov.



**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.

Commodity Loans

Shiawassee County Producers are reminded
that commodity loans are available for 2010
wheat, oats, corn, barley, and soybeans at the
following loan rates.

Corn	1.85
Soybeans	4.96
Red Wheat	1.73
White Wheat	2.03
Oats	1.38
Barley	1.82

Crop Reporting

All cropland acres must be reported to FSA to
receive benefits for the following programs:

- ✓ Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program
(DCP);
- ✓ Acreage Crop Revenue Election
(ACRE);
- ✓ Marketing assistance loans, including
LDP's;
- ✓ Conservation Reserve Program
(CRP);
- ✓ Non-insured Assistance Program
(NAP)

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must ac-
count for all cropland on a farm, whether idle
or planted. Producers need to file their
acreage reports by:

- **June 30, 2010** for fall seeded small grain
crops;
- **July 15, 2010** for spring seeded crops
and CRP

Signature Requirements

Spouses may sign all program documents on
behalf of each other without having a power of
attorney on file.

If for some reason you do not want your
spouse to sign program documents on your
behalf, we must be notified in writing.

Exception: Commodity Loans - both
spouses must sign for commodity loans,
marketing authorizations and lock-in
repayment rates unless a power
of attorney is on file.

**Non-Insured Assistance Program
(NAP)**

NAP producers are reminded to report their
2009 production to the FSA Office for APH
purposes no later than July 15, 2010.

REMINDER, if you experience any condi-
tions that may result in a loss to any crop
covered under NAP you must contact the
office within 15 days of the event.

Nominations for County Committee Open June 15

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). They help in the delivery of FSA farm programs at a local level, as well as work to make FSA farm programs serve the needs of local producers.

Since County Committee elections happen once a year, here is a refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA elects 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 and/or elect the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Shiawassee County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA #1, which includes Fairfield, Middlebury, Owosso, Perry, Sciota and Woodhull. This position is currently held by George J. Zmitko.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA County Committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area #1 will be accepted from June 15, 2010, through August 2, 2010.

Producers who are of legal voting age and are eligible to vote in LAA #1 and who participate and/or cooperate in FSA programs, may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers may nominate candidates. All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2, or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

-Attention Landowners-

FSA is finding that many of you are transferring your property into trusts. Regulations require FSA to record revisions when land changes hands, even if it's from an individual to his or her trust. FSA requires proof of ownership to update farm records. This ensures that FSA program contracts list the correct landowner. **If you're to the point of recording deeds in your trust's name, contact FSA immediately.** Program payments may be delayed if information is not kept current.

Wetland Compliance

If you plan on clearing, draining, or dredging land, or perform tile maintenance of any kind, you need to file an AD-1026 with our office before you begin. Failure to do so could result in the loss of USDA benefits.

Wind Turbines

There are many questions from owners who could potentially have wind turbines on their land. FSA regulations call for an approval process which allows wind turbines on land under CRP contract. However, several steps must be taken to receive approval. 1) A request must be placed with the FSA office. 2) FSA will perform an environmental review, which requires approval by a grading authority. 3) If the environmental review is confirmed, the COC can authorize the installation of the turbine. IMPORTANT NOTE: Access roads, transformers, substations, and other ancillary equipment will not be allowed on CRP contract acreage. By rule, this land is split from the contract and terminated, with the contract holder repaying all previous payments plus interest plus liquidated damages. Also, if the construction of the turbine causes damage to the CRP cover that is to remain under contract, the cover must be reseeded at the contract holder's expense. Contact FSA with questions regarding the construction of turbines on land enrolled in FSA programs.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
	5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.	6. LAA	
	7. STATE	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.	3B. DATE 	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>
		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>
8B. DATE		

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<u>ETHNICITY</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<u>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</u> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<u>GENDER</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.**ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.**ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.**ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)***ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

Shiawassee County FSA Office
1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT #19

This form is available electronically.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Jayne Van Ness at 989-723-8263, ext. 2