



July 2008



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Eaton County News

**Eaton County
USDA Service Center**
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517-543-5962 (FAX)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 – 4:30

County Committee
Jack Holbrook
Wm. Hosey
Duane Smuts
Gerry Holbrook, Advisor

Staff
Lori Aseltine
Heather Kennedy
Mike McManus
Becky Southern
Claude Smith, Field Asst.
Mark VanBuren, CED

IMPORTANT DATES

August 15
New crop certification
deadline

September 30
End of 2008 DCP sign up



2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program Sign Up

Producers can now enroll in the DCP Program for 2008 until September 30. 22% advance payments are available. The balance will be paid in October. A new provision under the 2008 Farm Bill is that a farm may not receive payments if the sum of the base acres is 10 acres or less. Reconstitutions of farms with less than 10 base acres are not allowed unless the farm undergoes a change in ownership and is being combined with a farm with the same owner and shares in the DCP payment.

Crop certification Date Extended

Because of delays in announcing the 2008 Farm Bill and adverse weather in parts of the country 2008 crop reporting has been extended to August 15 for all crops including wheat.

County Committee Elections

Administrative Area 3 made up of the Townships of Delta, Windsor, Eaton, Eaton Rapids, Brookfield, and Hamlin will be electing a representative to the County FSA Committee this year. Nominating petitions are available from the FSA office or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov. Nominations must be submitted by August 1.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Loans are available for the construction of new commodity storage facilities and the expansion of existing facilities. Producers may borrow up to \$100,000 for a term of 7 years. Storage need, down payment requirements, repayment ability, and loan security requirements must be met for loan approval.

Low interest Emergency Loans Available for Physical Losses

Emergency loans for physical losses due to the storms in early June are available. Contact John Anton or Sara Possehn at 616-527-9055. The Farm Loan Program staff is headquartered in the Ionia County office.

Farm Record Changes

Please report all farm record changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Many producers assume FSA automatically updates farm records with new owners. We can only update farm records when we are informed of the change by the farm's owner or operator.

Common Land Unit (CLU) Maps Being Mailed to Farm Owners and Operators

FSA is moving from a paper based map system to a computer based map system which is more accurate. Producers will be receiving updated maps in the mail soon and are being asked to review field boundaries to ensure accuracy. Some acreage may change because of the improved accuracy of the computer based system. Producers may contest the accuracy of field boundary placement, but not the field acreage if the boundaries are in the correct place.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in 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. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the local FSA county office staff, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General.



FSA offers farm loans for operations that are unable to obtain commercial financing. The loans available include farm ownership loans, operating loans and youth loans. All loans have a fixed interest rate.

Farm ownership loans are available to purchase (not refinance) land. The maximum loan amount is \$300,000 with terms up to 40 years.

Operating loans can be either annual operating or term operating loans. Some examples of uses for annual operating loans include, crop inputs and feed. These have a maximum term of 18 months. Term operating loans can be used for purchasing machinery, equipment and livestock with a maximum term of 7 years. A total of \$300,000 is available for operating loans.

Youth loans are available to youth between the ages of 10 and 20. These loans are available to FFA, 4-H or other such organized agricultural participants. These loans can be used to purchase livestock, equipment, supplies, tools or operating expenses for the project. The loan cannot exceed \$5,000. Repayment of the loan is individually tailored to the specific project

For more information please contact Sara Possehn at the Ionia Farm Service Agency (616) 527-2098.



CONDUCTING BUSINESS ELECTRONICALLY WITH USDA eGOV

eGOV provides USDA Service Center Agencies (FSA, NRCS, RD) customers the option of electronically accessing, printing, filling out and submitting forms and program applications. To fully utilize eGOV capabilities producers set up their own account for electronic signature authority at **www.eauth.egov.usda.gov**. Once registered the producer visits the FSA office to activate his account and receive a password to conduct business electronically with USDA agencies. Current programs available through eGOV include loan deficiency payments, Direct and Counter Cyclical Program contracts, and financial inquiries that allow producers to track USDA payments and deposits.

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