

# LAPEER/OAKLAND USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Office Hours 8:00 A. M. To 4:30 P. M.

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## Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins



Eligible farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops in the 2005, 2006 **and** 2007 crop years can enroll in the Crop Disaster Program. (CDP) at the Lapeer FSA Service Center. The sign up period began on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2007; an end date has not been announced. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may apply for benefits in more than one year, but will only receive benefits in their most beneficial year. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Please call the office for an appointment to apply for disaster benefits.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Please call the office for an appointment to apply for disaster benefits.

FSA offices may accept information from producers about QUALITY losses when producers submit applications for QUANTITY losses. However, FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete after FSA announces the quality loss sign-up date and all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA. Also, FSA will not consider applications completed for any loss, including quantity losses, until a final rule has been issued for this program. Please call the County Office for an appointment or more information concerning this program.

## HABITAT BUFFERS FOR UPLAND BIRDS

This is a unique opportunity for Lapeer County Landowners and Farmers. The USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) includes a special habitat buffer for upland birds ( CP-33) practice. A habitat buffer for upland birds is a band of native grasses, legumes, forbs, and or shrubs located around the perimeter of cropland fields that provides habitat for bobwhite quail; ring necked pheasant, and other upland birds. In addition, habitat buffers for upland birds may limit sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from entering water bodies.

To be eligible for this practice for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the land must be physically located in Lapeer County and have a cropping history. The definition of cropping history for this practice is 4 out 6 years from 1996 to 2001. This practice has an open sign up period; eligible participants can enroll in the practice at any time of the year.

## BEAWARE OF CROP INSURANCE REBATING SCHEMES

With spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have been marketing their products aggressively. Producers report that some agents have approached them with promise of lower premiums, refunds, or dividends. Most of these schemes are not legal. The Risk Management Agency and state insurance regulators have stepped up their efforts to uncover illegal rebating. Those producers who are found to participate in these schemes will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but may become ineligible for other government programs. Producers can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.

## LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for **NOT** more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.  
Socially disadvantaged groups are Women, Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.



## E-GOV

The 2005 and future year DCP contract software is web-based. Customers with an eGov "level 2" security access are able to e-file DCP contracts on-line.

To obtain eGov "Level 2" security access, customers may contact their local FSA Office or on the web at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>. By enrolling in eGov and having a Level 2 Access, producers will be able to transact some of their farm business from home, including enrolling for DCP and LDPs.

eGov allows USDA customers to view; their customer statement, payments associated with commodity and conservation programs, information on farm loans, conservation plan and land unit information. In addition, customers can submit payment requests like eLDP's, program applications such as eDCP and numerous other application forms using the eForms program.

## 2008 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Barb Knust was reelected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee LLA #3 as a regular voting member.  
Dave Brower was elected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee LLA #3 as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate.  
Keith Hummel was elected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee LLA #3 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate.

Terry Losh was elected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee LLA#4 as a regular voting member.  
John Cybulski was elected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee LLA#4 as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate.



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

Nap provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disaster. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production at 55 percent of the average market price.

If you carry NAP coverage for a crop, and you experience a loss of production you must file a report of loss. The report of loss must be filed in the County Office within 15 days of noticing the loss. You must timely file an acreage report and keep track and report production using acceptable methods. If you have completed harvest, please submit production evidence as soon as you can to record your actual production history (APH).

Sales closing dates are fast approaching for many crops.

March 15, 2008 is the sales closing date for most spring planted annual crops.

September 1, 2008 is the sales closing date for value loss crops such as aquaculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and floriculture mushrooms, finfish, ginseng and grass sod.

September 30, 2008 is the sales closing date small grains, forage crops, winter wheat, rye, barley, fall speltz and fall mint.

October 1, 2008 is the sales closing date for Chestnuts.

November 20, 2008 is the sales closing date for tree fruit crops, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, cane berries, grapes, rhubarb, and strawberries.

December 1, 2008 is the sales closing date for honey and sap.

### THE AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)

AFIDA requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the country are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA report could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>March 15</b>	<b>Sales Closing Date for Crop Insurance on Corn, Seed Corn, Soybeans, Canning Beans, Popcorn, Oats, Barley</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Deadline to Purchase NAP Coverage for Spring-Seeded Vegetables</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Deadline to receive 2008 Wool LDP</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Final Date to Obtain 2007-Crop Wheat, Oats &amp; Barley Loans &amp; LDPs</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Final Date to report fall seeded small grain planted acres.</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Final Date to report all other crops planted acres.</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster Program</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>2005 – 2007 Livestock Compensation Program</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Farm Storage Facility Loans</b>



### WEBSITE LOCATIONS

Website for the Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
Visit the USDA Homepage for up-to-date information: <http://www.usda.gov>

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer (revised 6/8/2005).

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Andrew Calcaterra (810)664-0895.