



Farm Service Agency

Washtenaw-Wayne County - February 2008

Issue 1

Committee Election Results

Address

7203 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone: (734)761-8789

Fax: (734) 662-1686

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Walter Rochowiak
Luther Schaible
Robert Breuninger
Marilyn Gordon

Farm Program Staff

Ruth Barker
Lori Maulbetsch
Lori Terreault
Laura Whitaker
Linda Rector - CED

Farm Loan Manager

Michael Jordon
(517) 263-7400 x 110

2008 - Office Closed: **February 19**

Presidents' Day

May 26

Memorial Day

Dates to Remember

March 15 - Deadline
for NAP application
for 2007 vegetable
crop.

March 31- Final date
for 2007 Wheat loans

May 31 - Final date
for 2007 Corn &
Soybean loans

Ongoing

- Continuous CRP
- Farm Storage
Facility Loans

We'd like to congratulate Marilyn Gordon and Walter Rochowiak for being re-elected to a second term on the County Office Committee (COC). Marilyn Gordon represents producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, which consists of Lodi, Pittsfield, Ypsilanti, Saline, York, and Augusta townships. Walter Rochowiak represents producers in all of Wayne County. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

County Executive Director

Hello, My name is Linda Rector and I am the new CED for Washtenaw/Wayne Counties. A few of you I already know. I have 29 years with FSA, started in the Ingham/Livingston Office (25 years), went into the Training Program to become a CED, spent a few months in the Michigan State FSA Office, CED in the Allegan County Office, and now here in Ann Arbor. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, my door is always open.

2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

On October 15, 2007 County Offices began taking applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program. The 2005-2007 CDP program provided disaster assistance to those insured producers who suffered a crop loss in any one crop year 2005 through February 28, 2007, this has changed. **READ THE FOLLOWING CLOSELY:** In January of 2008 the provisions of the CDP program restricting 2007 losses to crops planted prior to February 28, 2007 ***were dropped and the program was expanded to include all 2007 crops!*** If you are a producer who filed prior to the "expanded" program, it is possible the most beneficial year selected for crop disaster payments may now be the 2007 crop year. It is important that you determine if you suffered an insured loss for the crop year 2007 and if so, to revisit the FSA Office to apply for the new or additional losses to correctly calculate your payment.



CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered 35% quantity and 25% quality losses to 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted ***before December 31, 2007***. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest.

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.

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate. FSA includes all harvested production, non harvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP.

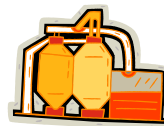
Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a future date. A quality loss of 25% or greater is needed to qualify. The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. CDP requires a 35 percent loss of expected production; therefore, you may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under NAP or RMA coverage.

PLEASE NOTE: for future disaster program eligibility, it may be advantageous to have NAP and/or crop insurance.

A Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is part of this disaster legislation. LCP compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between **January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007**. Producers must choose only one year to receive benefits, 05, 06, or 07. You must have had a loss of pasture and/or have receipts of purchased extra feed.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA offers storage facility loans for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans, and corn. The interest rate for February, 2008 is 3.5%. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include bunkers, new conventional type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo type structures. All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. For loans exceeding \$50,000 or where a borrower's aggregate outstanding loan balance exceeds \$50,000, a lien on real estate will be required. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment of 15 percent is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.



NAP Coverage Deadline



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available for 2008 crops for which catastrophic level crop insurance is not available. The application fee is \$100 per crop per county; or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 per producer for all counties. March 15 is the NAP application closing date for most 2008 vegetable and dry bean crops. This date is unchanged from recent years.

Producers who had coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who choose to add or delete crops from the previous year's coverage, or are changing shares for 2008, must file a new CCC-471 with signatures. If you carried NAP coverage on crops for crop year 2007, please remember to provide your production to the FSA office. This is required for all crops which are covered under a NAP policy. To remain compliant in NAP, producers must: 1) timely file acreage reports; 2) follow HEL and Wetland conservation compliance requirements; 3) file Notice of Loss within 15 days of weather damage or within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent; 4) request loss adjustment appraisals if any crop will not be harvested or to document production left in the field; and 5) provide true and complete production records for the unit.

Farm Bill News

When the Farm Bill is passed and approved by the President, we will inform producers through newsletters, informational mailings and radio spots of the new programs and sign-up dates. **It is very important** to watch for this information! **HOWEVER...**the County Office is still performing farm record changes.



Record Changes

Report **all** farming operation changes to keep your records current. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- **Address** – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.

- Direct Deposit – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information is updated immediately.
- Development – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- Owner/Operator Changes – report any changes in land ownership, tenants, or crop-share arrangements.
- Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators, should be reported as soon as possible.
- Update AD-1026 – when picking up new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program payments. Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits
- Farm Operating Plan – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person” and/or “actively engaged” determinations such as but not limited to switching your farm operation to a corporation, LLC, partnership; switching members of an entity (adding or deleting members).

If there are any changes in your farming operation, *PLEASE* take time to come into the County Office and make those changes **NOW!** It is the perfect time to get these changes made, so please do not procrastinate...it will make signing into the new programs much easier on everyone!!

2008 Crop Year Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelt Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) and LDP Policy

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 was signed by the President on December 26, 2007 authorizing MAL and LDP programs for 2008 crops of graded and ungraded wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts through March 15, 2008



Foreign Landowners Reporting Requirement

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Attention Producers, Landowners!

- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm(s) this year?

There are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to ensure they remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have questions or concerns with something you plan to do on your farm that could compromise your eligibility for government benefits, **including tiling any ground or removing woods and fencerows**, please contact the Washtenaw-Wayne NRCS office *before* you begin work.



farm

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants

Washtenaw-Wayne County FSA
7203 Jackson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9506



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 19

eGov Customer Registration Process

Did you know you can verify what payments you've received from FSA (referred to as the "Customer Statement"), sign up for DCP and request LDP payments from your home computer?

1. The first step is to obtain your "**Level 2 Authorization**" by accessing the following website:
 - USDA Customer Statement at <http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
2. Create an account by clicking on get login and completing your profile, responding to the verification e-mail within 7 days of receipt.
3. Visit your local County FSA Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.

******Please remember once sign up begins it is helpful to call and make an appointment!***



Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the FSA Office in person or by phone.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling any FSA Office.

Non-Discrimination Statement 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to 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).