



Farm Service Agency

May 2007

Issue No. 1

Van Buren/Kalamazoo Farm Service Agency NEWSLETTER

Van Buren FSA

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269-657-4925 FAX

County Committee

Timothy Hood, Member
Doug Meachum, Vice Chair
Chester Ray, Chair
Felipe Llerena, Advisor

Staff

Debi Gavrun, PT
Mary Jo Hendrixson, PT
William Hogan, FLM
Pamela Merwin, PT
Carolyn Skeen, PT
Ron Slaughter, PT
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Kalamazoo FSA

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269-327-0940
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County Committee

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Ben Fritz, Chair
Tim Vosburg, Member

Staff

Phillip DeYoung, FLM
Jean Gagliardo, FA
Marnie Plucienik, PT
Matthew Skrzypek, FA
James L. Vogt, CED

FSA Website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Hours

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



DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED

The **annual** sign up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended through **August 3, 2007**.

APPOINTMENTS ARE STRONGLY

ENCOURAGED. After August 3rd, there is a \$100 late fee per farm.

A 22% advance of the Direct payment can be requested for any month December through September of the program year. The final portion of the Direct payment will be issued October 2007 if all eligibility requirements are met.

An advance Counter-Cyclical payment may also be requested. This would be paid in October 2007 and February 2008, with the understanding that any unearned payment would need to be refunded.

DCP contract enrollment is an annual event. Producers need to sign a new CCC-509 contract each year to participate.

Contact your local County Office for an appointment!

COC ELECTION RESULTS

Timothy Hood was re-elected to the Van Buren County Committee for 2007. Tim represents Lawrence, Paw Paw, Antwerp, Decatur, and Porter Townships. No alternates were elected.

Timothy Vosburg was elected to the Kalamazoo County Committee for 2007. Tim represents Kalamazoo, Comstock, Charleston, Texas, Portage, Pavilion, and Climax Townships. Tim's alternates are Steve Gazdag and Carl Randles III.

Thanks to all who took the time to vote and a great big thank you to those who were willing to serve on the committee!

DCP REMINDERS

*Report any farming operation changes so that we can keep your records current. This includes changes in landownership or operators.



*Farm changes that require farm reconstitutions should be reported as soon as possible so we can update your records prior to 2007 DCP sign up. Farm divisions should be considered when you do not have a firm lease. We cannot enroll a farm with changes pending, so please let us know of your changes well before your appointment to signup.

*Do you have a signed lease from the landowner? A signed rental agreement or the landowner's signature on the DCP contract is required. A cash rent certification may be used if you rented the land last year, however, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until July 1, 2007.

*All farmers who produce a crop on the base acres are entitled to share in the DCP payment. **Landowners who do not have a risk in growing the crop are not eligible to receive a DCP payment.**

*Plan to update your payment limitation documents and other program eligibility records.

HOME GARDENS

A Home Garden is an area of fruits or vegetables on a farm planted for the consumption and home use of a producer. *Home Gardens are limited to a maximum of 2.0 acres.* Home Gardens are excluded from acreage considered as FAV. If the total garden acreage on a farm is greater than 2.0 acres, the entire garden acreage will be considered as FAV and could affect program benefits.



MEASUREMENT SERVICE FEE CHANGE

The fee for measuring things such as field acreages and grain bins has been increased to a basic farm visit fee of \$30 plus \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. There will be a charge for a minimum of one hour. *The minimum measurement service fee will now be \$46.00.*

REPORTING CROP ACREAGES

Producers are required to report their planted crops and acres to FSA in order to maintain eligibility for several program benefits:



- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments
- Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments
- Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Payments

The deadline to report fall-seeded small grains is July 2, 2007. The deadline to report all other crops is July 16, 2007. Please contact your local county office to schedule an appointment to report crops.

PREVENTED PLANTED AND FAILED ACRES

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment during the established planting period for the crop type because of a natural disaster. To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a notice of loss *within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.*

Late-filed prevented planting acreage claims will be accepted if requests are filed at such time to permit a farm visit to verify the eligible disaster conditions which prevented the specific acreage or crop from being planted *and* give COC the opportunity to determine that eligible disaster conditions, such as damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence as opposed to other factors, prevented the planting of the acreage or crop.

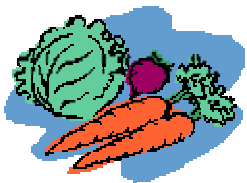


Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster-related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. To be approved failed acreage, the acreage must have been reported as failed acreage before the disposition of the crop and the acreage must have been planted under normal conditions but failed as the result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

FINAL PLANTING DATES FOR 2007 CROPS

<i>Final Planting Date</i>	<i>Crop</i>	<i>Final Planting Date</i>	<i>Crop</i>
October 25	Wheat	June 20	Grain Sorghum
May 10	Sunflowers	June 25	Dry Beans
May 20	Barley, Oats	June 30	Sweet Corn, Peppers, Pumpkins
May 25	Onions	July 7	Eggplant
May 31	Celery	July 10	Tomatoes
June 5	Commercial Corn	July 15	Snap Beans
June 10	Carrots	July 20	Cucumbers, Cantaloupe
June 15	Soybeans, Watermelon	July 31	Cabbage, Broccoli, Summer & Winter Squash

PLANTING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON DCP ACRES



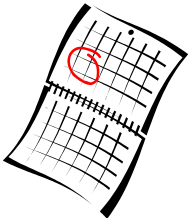
Planting fruits and vegetables (FAVs) on DCP contract acreage may adversely affect your program benefits. FAVs include, but are not limited to, green beans, dry edible beans, pumpkins, nuts, orchards, vineyards and most truck crops. Please contact your local FSA county office before your plant or lease land for FAV production to discuss acreage reporting requirements, prevention of possible violation of FAV provisions, payment reductions, and severe penalties.



Did you know??? A farmer in the United States grows enough to feed about 129 people for one full year.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) REMINDER

A reminder to all producers who filed NAP applications for 2005: You **MUST** report acreage to remain eligible for the program. Also, an Application for Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 days of the weather event causing the loss, or within 15 days after it becomes evident there is a loss to the crop. Producers who sell roadside are reminded to call the office and request a pre-harvest appraisal.

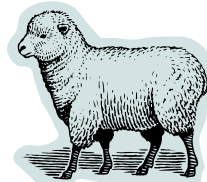


2006-CROP COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 31

May 31 is the deadline to request loans or LDPs on 2006-crop corn, soybeans and sunflowers. Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 5.875%.

WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS & LDPs

The 2007 crop year for wool and mohair began January 1st. Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are available for 2007-crop wool and mohair. Ensure you have form CCC-633EZ on file in the County Office before you lose beneficial interest in your 2007 wool and mohair. This form is available online or in your local County Office.



LOCAL WAREHOUSES REMOVED FROM APPROVED LIST

The following locations have been terminated from the approved list for storage of price support grain loans because the warehouse operators have requested cancellation of the Uniform Grain and Rice Storage Agreement which controls the storage of Government-owned grains:



- The Andersons Agriculture Group LP, located in Albion, Michigan
- Marks Bros. & Company Inc., located in Decatur, Michigan

Any grains put into storage at these facilities will not be eligible for loans during the period these facilities are terminated from the list of warehouses approved by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

COMMODITY LOAN AND LDP SPOTCHECKING

Each month our field reporter checks different farm-stored commodity loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) to ensure the grain is in good condition and that there is sufficient collateral to secure loans. Remember to check your grain periodically to make sure it isn't deteriorating. With the recent changes in temperature, checking your grain for moisture and hot spots is even more critical. Please contact your local FSA county office before moving any grain from the bin for any reason. ***If you do not obtain a release before removal or do not repay grain prior to feeding, you are in violation of your loan agreement.*** Remember, a quick call to the County Office is all it takes to stay in compliance.



UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOAN GRAIN

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the County Office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office **before** any loan grain is fed or sold.

THIS NEWSLETTER...

...is the primary method we have of contacting you, our customers, directly. Our goal in producing the newsletter is to make you aware of the availability of farm programs and to periodically remind you of certain program requirements. We recognize that due to limited space, we cannot always tell you everything you may want or need to know about a program you may be interested in or eligible for. Through this newsletter, we will try to provide you with enough basic information about our programs in order for you to decide whether you are interested in learning more about them. If an article piques your interest, please contact your local County Office and the staff will provide you with the detailed program information you need to make an informed decision. In the meantime, we hope you find this newsletter useful.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
VAN BUREN FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 28	Memorial Day Holiday – Offices Closed
May 31	Final Day to Request 2007-Crop Corn, Soybean or Sunflower Loans or LDPs
June 13	Kalamazoo County Committee Meeting
June 19	Van Buren County Committee Meeting
July 2	Final Day to Report Acreages for 2007 Small Grains
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Offices Closed
July 11	Kalamazoo County Committee Meeting
July 16	Final Day to Report Acreages for All Other 2007 Crops
July 17	Van Buren County Committee Meeting
August 1	Final Day to Request 2007 Farm Reconstitutions
August 3	Final Day to Enroll in 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program
August 8	Kalamazoo County Committee Meeting
August 14	Van Buren County Committee Meeting
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans

eGOV CUSTOMER REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Access your website of interest:
 - USDA Customer Statement <http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
 - Electronic LDP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/eldp_default.htm
 - Electronic DCP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm
2. Create an online user profile and apply for Level 2 access
3. Respond to the verification email within 7 days of receipt.
4. Visit the County Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.
5. Access Level 2 applications within 1 hour after profile has been activated.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

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

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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.