



ANTRIM/OTSEGO COUNTY NEWS

May 2010

Issue No. 2

Antrim/Otsego County FSA

USDA Service Center

108 Depot Street
Bellaire, MI 49615
231-533-8542 ext. 2
231-533-6689 (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

Mark White, Chairperson
Barbara Fleming, Vice-Chair
Roger Bolhuis, Member
John Makarewicz, Member
Anthony Prusakiewicz Jr, Member
Deborah Milbocker, Advisor

County Committee meets the second Friday of each month at 9:30 am.

County Executive Director

Kathy Y Kozlowski

Farm Loan Manager

James Monroe
231-941-0951 (phone)

Staff

Kathy Johnson, Program Tech.
Kari Tipton, Program Tech.

Dates to Remember

May 31 - Memorial Day, office closed

June 1 –Final date to request '09 corn & soybean loans

June 1 – DCP/ACRE Enrollment deadline

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 observance of Independence Day

July 15 – Deadline to report all crops except fall-seeded small grain

Aug 1 – Last day to request a farm combination or division

Continues – Farm Storage Facility Loans

Continues – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE



Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) Program

Signup for the SURE program began January 4, 2010. Applications are currently being taken for the 2008 crop year. An ending date for the 2008 sign up period has not yet been established.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent revenue loss on at least one crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

In addition to meeting the risk management purchase requirement, a producer must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Regardless of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please contact the county office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres

DCP participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as “contract acres” must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Failure to control weeds on contract acres will cost you program benefits if the COC determines the producer failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Internal Revenue Service* to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are **not** issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Tree Assistance Program

Orchardists and nursery tree growers can begin applying for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. TAP provides benefits to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The deadline to apply for losses that occurred in 2008, 2009 and January 1 through May 8, 2010 is July 6, 2010. If you suffer losses May 8, 2010 to September 30, 2011 you must file an application and supporting documentation within 90 days from the later of the disaster event or the date when the loss of trees, bushes or vines is apparent. Contact your local FSA Office for more information or on FSA's website: www.fsa.usda.gov/tap

Nominations for County Committee Open June 15

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of 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 contributes 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 the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Antrim/Otsego County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2, which includes Chestonia, Jordan, Star, Mancelona and Warner Townships.

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

Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 2 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age, 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.

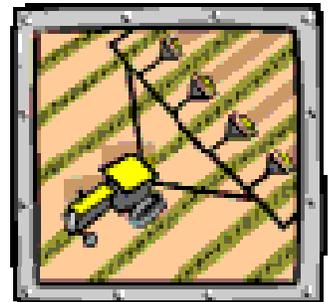
To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2, or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

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>.

Crop Reporting Time Fast Approaching

The annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland acres on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the following programs:

- **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program(DCP);**
- **Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE);**
- **Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments;**
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);**
- **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**
- **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)**



Crop Reporting, cont. - Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted along with planting dates. Producers need to file their acreage reports by:

- **June 30, 2010** for fall seeded small grain crops;
- **July 15, 2010** for all crops, except fall seeded small grains.

<p>FSA-669A (03-24-10)</p>	<p>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency</p>
<p>NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</p>	

<p>1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)</p>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
<p>2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE</p>	<p>4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED</p>	
<p>3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</p> <p><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></p> <p><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.</p>	<p>5. COUNTY</p>	
<p>3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE</p>	<p>3B. DATE</p>	<p>6. LAA</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</p>	<p>7. STATE</p>	

<p>3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</p> <p><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></p> <p><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.</p>	<p>8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</p> <p><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></p>		
<p>3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE</p>	<p>3B. DATE</p>	<p>8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR</p>	<p>8B. DATE</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</p>		<p><i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i></p>	

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.

<p>ETHNICITY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino</p>	<p>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</p> <p><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</p>	<p>GENDER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>
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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.



This form is available electronically.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

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 Kathy Y Kozlowski at 231-533-8542, ext. 2