



Arenac and Iosco County News

June 2010

Issue No. 2

**Arenac County FSA
USDA Service Center**
4490 W. M-61
Standish, MI 48658
989-846-4565
989-846-9641 (fax)

**Iosco County FSA
USDA Service Center**
190 W. M-55 RR#3
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-3842
989-362-8382 (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.

Arenac County Committee
Ed Stange, Chairperson
Brandon Johnson, Vice-Chair
Ken Daniels, Member
Courtney Rolfe, Advisor

Iosco County Committee
Joe Vohwinkle – Chairman
Al Erickson – Vice Chairman
Chris Daniels – Member
Karen Curry – COC Advisor

Staff
Diane Bartlett, Program Tech.
Ruth Gulvas, PT
Lynn Potts, PT
Melanie Barnes, PT (Iosco)
Jim Estes, Field Asst.
Jerry Spickerman, FLM (Arenac)
Larry Cleary, FLM (Iosco)
Tim Stein CED

Dates to Remember
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 spring seeded crops
July 15 – Deadline to report all ACRE and NAP production
Aug 1 – Last day to request a farm combination or division
Continues – Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE

Crop Reporting Time Fast Approaching

The annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planted 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)**

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

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

It is helpful to call ahead for an appointment and to have your information handy. Such as where, and what you planted listed in a notebook or on a map, plus your planting dates.

General CRP- Possible Signup

If you are interested in the Conservation Reserve Program and have been waiting for a general signup, your time may be coming soon. No signup dates have been announced yet, but are expected to happen soon. Look for upcoming announcements.

CREP Planting Maintenance

Cropland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program may be eligible for mowing between August 1st and August 20th. Mowing to reduce weed competition and promote growth of beneficial plants is encouraged, but must be done within this time frame to support both endangered and game animal populations. Call the Office First for guidance on this practice.

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.

Program Outreach

FSA is constantly striving to seek out persons from minority, female, and/or underrepresented groups to ensure they are informed of the agricultural services and programs that our offices administer. Any person of legal age who has an interest in a farm as an owner or operator is eligible to participate in FSA programs and to vote in the FSA county committee election process. If you or someone you know may be eligible for our programs or would like to be included in our mailings please contact your local FSA office for more information.

2008 SURE program

SURE is a revenue based disaster program. For Crop Year 2008, if all of your crops had insurance or NAP coverage, and you suffered a loss, SURE may be for you. Applications are currently being accepted.



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. Arenac and Iosco Counties will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA #2 which includes Mason, Turner, Whitney, Au Gres & Sims Townships in Arenac County and Alabaster, Reno, Burleigh and Sherman in Iosco County. These positions are currently held by, Ed Stange in Arenac, and Chris Daniels in Iosco.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA county committee election representing producers in these areas 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>.

Unauthorized Disposition

If grain under loan 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 producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office **before** any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Payment Limitation

No program benefits subject to payment limitation may be provided to any producer until the necessary payment limitation forms are filed and determinations made. A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms are provided and acted upon. An individual or entity must:

- Provide significant contributions of capital, land, or equipment to the farming operation

- Provide significant contributions of active personnel labor and/or active personnel management.
- Make contributions or inputs to the farming operation that are commensurate with the profits or losses of the farming operation.
- Be at risk, commensurate with the claimed share of inputs.
- Capital cannot be acquired through a loan that was obtained by, or guaranteed by, or secured by any individual, joint operation or entity that has an interest in the farming operation. The status date for determinations is June 1 of the applicable program year.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

These loans are available at great rates and terms. Revised provisions allow for greater flexibility in both value and terms of the loan agreement. For additional details contact your local FSA office

FSA-669A (03-24-10)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:	5. COUNTY	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	6. LAA	7. STATE
3B. DATE	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:	

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 DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

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.

Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.

(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

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.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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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.

Arenac County FSA Office
4490 W. M-61
Standish, MI 48658



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT #19

This form is available electronically.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

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, audiotape, 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 Tim Stein at 846-4565 or 362-3842.