



## Arenac/Iosco County News

USDA Service Center

**Arenac County FSA**  
4490 M-61  
Standish, MI 48658  
989-846-4565 (phone)  
989-846-9641 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

**Iosco County FSA**  
190 M-55  
Tawas City, MI 48763  
989-362-3842 (phone)  
989-362-8382 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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

**Arenac County Committee**  
Ed Stange  
Ken Daniels  
Kevin Noffsinger  
Courtney Rolfe

**Iosco County Committee**  
Chris Daniels  
Joe Vohwinkle  
Karen Curry

Arenac Committee meets:  
Second Wednesday of the  
Month at 9:00 a.m.

Iosco Committee meets:  
Second Thursday of the  
Month at 9:30 a.m.

**Office Staff**  
Diane Bartlett  
Melanie Barnes  
Ruth Gulvas  
Lyn Potts  
Jim Estes  
Joe Daniels  
Tim Stein



### County Committee Elections

At December's meeting ballots were counted for the position of county committee member with the following results:

Elected to represent LAA #3 in Arenac County (Standish, Lincoln, Arenac townships)

Kevin Noffsinger – COC member

Elected to represent LAA #3 in Iosco County (Grant, Tawas, Baldwin townships)

Karen Curry – COC member

I would like to thank Al Erickson in Iosco County and Brandon Johnson in Arenac County for their many years of service to their respective County Committees.

### County Committee Reorganization

The following positions on the County Committees were determined at the reorganization meetings in January:

Arenac County  
Ed Stange – Chairman  
Ken Daniels – Vice Chairman  
Kevin Noffsinger – Member  
Courtney Rolfe – COC Advisor

The Arenac Committee determined to hold their regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

Alternate meeting day was designated as the fourth Wednesday of the month. Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m.

### Iosco County

Chris Daniels – Chairman  
Joe Vohwinkle – Vice Chairman  
Karen Curry – Member  
vacant – COC Advisor

The Iosco County Committee determined to hold their regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Alternate meeting day was designated as the fourth Thursday of the month. Meetings in Iosco will start at 9:30 a.m.

**Due to budgetary constraints County Committee meetings will be held quarterly throughout 2012.**

### Electronic Newsletter

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Interested producers may subscribe to receive e-mail updates by going to the USDA GovDelivery sign-up page found at the following web address:

## Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. This will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

## Spousal Signatures

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. Spouses may sign loan documents only when an FSA Power of Attorney form is on file.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the office personally because of work schedules, distance, etc., FSA has a power of attorney (POA) form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business. This POA is only effective at the FSA office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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

Check out Michigan's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

We will be working with producers as they enroll in programs or stop at the office in the next few months to assist you in subscribing for GovDelivery services.

## DCP Sign Up Start

Sign up for the 2012 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) program will start on January 23, 2012 and run through June 1, 2012.

There will be no advance payments for the 2012 DCP program as the 2008 Farm Bill as written has no provisions allowing for advance payments. Payments for the 2012 year DCP sign up will be issued in October.

In general, producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) may not plant fruits and/or vegetables on base acres enrolled in DCP.

However fruits and vegetables may be planted:

- On a farm with a history of planting fruits and vegetables
- If the producer has an established history of planting a specific fruit or specific vegetable

DCP and ACRE payments will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to a fruit or vegetable if the farm or producer has a history of fruit and vegetable planting.

### LEASE REQUIREMENTS for DCP and ACRE Contracts:

Leases must contain:

- The type of lease (cash, share, etc)
- Landowner name, signature, and date
- Farm operator name, signature and date
- Length of lease (list number of years)

## Did you suffer a crop loss in the 2010 Crop Year? Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program (SURE) Signup ongoing.

To be eligible for this program, producers must have purchased at least the catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops of economic significance and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops for the 2010 crop year. SURE is different from other disaster programs because it is *REVENUE BASED*.

The (SURE) Program is the only disaster assistance program remaining from the 2008 Farm Bill's disaster programs. All other disaster programs expired on September 30, 2011.

For SURE, a "farm" is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration; or
- the actual revenue is less than 50% of the normal revenue.

**Note:** A "farm" refers to all crop acreage in all counties across the nation that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or farm livestock feeding. You must have suffered a 10 percent revenue loss on at least one crop of economic significance on your farm in order to be eligible for the SURE program. A crop of economic significance is one that contributes at least 5 percent of the expected revenue for a producer's farm.

The SURE guarantees for the farm 90% of the total expected farm revenue. SURE payments will be 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee for the farm and the total farm revenue for the farm.

The signup period ends on June 1, 2012 and this is a process that does take some time, if you feel you may qualify, start the paperwork early.

More details on the 2010 SURE Program are available at county offices.

**Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold 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.

**Bank Account Changes**

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when bank accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.



**Farm Reconstitutions**

Many times farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and/or the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program or ACRE Program.

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm ownership is sold/transferred to two or more persons; (3) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

**ANNUAL PAYMENT LIMITATION NOTICE**

Payment limitations per person for 2012 (no change from previous year):

- \$40,000 for Direct Payments (DCP);
- \$65,000 for Counter Cyclical Payments (DCP) and ACRE payments;
- \$50,000 for CRP;
- no limits for market gains and LDP's;
- \$100,000 for Disaster Assistance Programs;
- \$100,000 for NAP.

***Commodity Loans***

Commodity Loans are available to eligible producers. Loans are available for

nine months following the month of dispersal. Interest rates are currently minimal with January's rate being 1.125%.

The following are the loan rates per bushel effective for 2011 crop year commodities:

**Arenac County**

Corn	\$1.79
Red Wheat	\$2.05
White Wheat	\$2.16
Soybeans	\$4.89
Oats	\$1.38
Barley	\$1.80

**Iosco County**

Corn	\$1.79
Red Wheat	\$2.03
White Wheat	\$2.15
Soybeans	\$4.87
Oats	\$1.38
Barley	\$1.80

***Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)***

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available to producers demonstrating a need for additional on farm storage or drying capacity. Interest rates are locked in for the life of the loan at time of loan approval.

Maximum Loan limit is \$500,000. A mortgage is required on all amounts over \$50,000.

Loan terms:

- \$100,000 or less – 7 years;
- \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 yrs;
- \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 yrs

Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available.

## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years.

## WOMEN'S AND HISPANIC'S CLAIM PROCESS

The Federal Government has set up a claims process to provide money to farmers who may have been discriminated against because they were women or Hispanic. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: <https://farmerclaims.gov>

More information is available at the county offices.



### **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 County Office in person or by phone.

Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, CREP
Continues	Farm Storage/Facility Loan
Continues	Crop Disaster Program (SURE) Signup for 2010 for Quality and Quantity losses
Jan 16	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Birthday observed
Jan 23	Beginning 2012 Crop Year DCP and ACRE contract enrollment
Jan 31	Final date to request 2011 crop wool and mohair loans or LDP's
Feb 20	Office Closed – George Washington's Birthday Observed
Mar 15	NAP sales closing date for many crops, check with the offices for a listing
April 2	Final date to request 2011 wheat loans or LDP's
May 31	Final date to request 2011 corn and soybean loans
June 1	Final date to enroll in the 2012 DCP/ACRE programs

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 (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.