



# Baraga County News

## Baraga County USDA Service Center

**Baraga County FSA**  
16403 Ojibwa Ind. Park  
Baraga, MI 49908  
906-353-8225 (phone)  
906-353-8231 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Sheila Perttula  
Norman Shimp  
Joseph Robillard  
Bruce King  
August Semmerling  
Roger Duschene Adv.

### Staff

Mike Applekamp, CED  
Tammy Clisch, P.T.  
Leona Delene, Temp.

Serving: Baraga,  
Gogebic,  
Houghton,  
Keweenaw &  
Ontonagon  
Counties



## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Just a reminder for Baraga County Farm Service Agency eligible voters: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee elections ballots starting this month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Baraga County on November 6, 2009. If for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the Baraga Area FSA Office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 7, 2009.

## NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each crop or commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, excessive moisture, hail etc.

### Important NAP dates to remember:

**December 1** Sale closing date for 2010 Honey and Maple Sap.

**January 2, 2010** Honey acreage report date.

**November 20, 2009** Sale closing date for 2010 Blueberries, Raspberries and Strawberries.

Please contact your local FSA office for additional information or questions on NAP Crops.

## NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield each year. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. The records need to show crop disposition. It is recommended producers submit 2009 production records soon after harvest. *All production records for 2009 must be submitted by the 2010 acreage report date for the crop. The final acreage reporting date for NAP crops is July 15, 2010.*

## NEW PROGRAM PAYMENT SYSTEM

In the efforts to streamline the payment process the Farm Service Agency just adopted a new payment system. Payments are now processed through a National Payment Service. This system will make the issuing and collection of payments more efficient. As with any new process, it takes a little time to work out the bugs. This year payments are arriving later than usual. Late interest is paid to individuals whose payments are not processed within 30 days from the time we receive the ability to make them.

Baraga County FSA Office  
 16403 Ojibwa Industrial Park  
 Baraga, MI 49908



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

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE  
 ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS  
 (SURE) PROGRAM**

This program replaces past disaster programs for crops. Payments are earned when there is a revenue loss on all of a producer's farms combined. To be eligible, producers are required to have crop insurance or non-insured crop assistance (NAP) coverage on all crops, on all farms in the nation. An exception is a crop that is not economically significant (one which is not expected to contribute at least 5% of the farm's income.) For **SURE** to be available in a crop year, a "Secretarial" disaster declaration or a producer with a 50% revenue loss due to weather is required. Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon did have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for crop year 2008. Therefore producers who had a NAP policy on all crops will be eligible to apply.

**BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE  
 PROGRAM**

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry –ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry –ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to qualified biomass conversion facility. Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before

the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or county office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/energy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy) for more information.

Dates to Remember	
Nov 20th	NAP sales closing date for perennial crops
Dec 1st	NAP sales closing date for honey and maple sap
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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