



Clinton County FSA News

Clinton County USDA Service Center

Clinton County FSA
2343 N US-27
St Johns, MI 48879
989-224-3720 (phone)
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Ronald Arens
Doug Eldridge
John Felzke

County Committee Advisor

Melva Kelley

Office Staff

Linda Applebee
Amanda Conklin
Doreen Schneider

Field Reporter

Mark Walsh

County Executive Director

Anita M Perkins

County Committee Meetings

3rd Wednesday of each month.



Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) for 2009.

- **Sign-up ends June 1.**
There are no late file provisions allowing producers to sign-up into the program after June 1.
- Base acres must be planted to an annual crop, be in hay, or idle grasses. Fruits & Vegetables (FAV) can not be planted on base acres unless the farm or producer has FAV history. In cases where FAVs can be planted, the producer will receive an acre-for-acre reduction in their program payment.
- Farms must have more than 10 acres of base to participate.
- Payments can only be earned by the person who has the risk in producing and marketing the crop.
- Annual crop certification of all cropland on the farm is required.
- Lease agreements will be needed if your payment is requested prior to June 30. **Please have a copy of your 2009 leases with you when you come to sign up.**
- HEL and Wetland provisions apply

Record review prior to sign-up:

Farm Changes – report any changes in landownership, tenants or crop share arrangements. This also includes land development.

Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or separations should be reported as soon as possible. Farms with 10 acres or less of base can be combined together

Direct Payment is a guaranteed payment. Payment is calculated using the farm base & yield. Payment rates are: corn .28, wheat .52, barley .24, oats .024, and soybeans .44 (payment = base x 83.3% x yield x share x payment rate)

22% of the direct payment is available starting at the time of sign-up, if requested and the final 78% of the payment will be issued in October 2009.

Counter-cyclical payment is a payment based on a 12-month marketing cycle in comparison to the target price. This is **not** a guaranteed payment. An advance payment may be requested. However, at the end of the marketing cycle any unearned payment will have to be refunded.

Advance – 40% of the projected payment will be issued 6 months after harvest.

Final payment will be issued 12 months after harvest. Producers who did not elect to take the partial payment will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at this time.

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

We are receiving a lot of questions on the ACRE program. At this time we have been given very little information on the program.

Each year from 2009-2012 you will have a choice to enroll in either the DCP program or the ACRE program. **Once you elect to enroll a farm in ACRE, the farm will stay in ACRE through 2012.**

Producers considering the ACRE program can first enroll in the DCP program for 2009 and then later modify to the ACRE program once the rules are available and sign-up is announced.

Current Clinton County Staffing

For the last year our office has had five people to help service the producers and administer programs. Due to retirements and a delay in the hiring process, we are currently trying to meet all your program needs with three people.

Linda Applebee was made full time in January. She will take over the duties of keeping farm records and producer eligibility records up to date.

The other individual selected is still waiting for security clearance.

We are asking that you please be patient with our office as we go through this transitional period.

DCP/ ACRE Program Signup

Appointments are a must. Due to a large number of changes it will be difficult to take walk-ins during this year's sign-up. Changes from last year are as follows:

Farm Cropland Acres – We have just completed the process of changing all the acres on your farm(s) to match acres on the new computerized maps. Farm bases cannot exceed the cropland on the farm. If this situation exists the landowner will have 30 days to decide which bases should be reduced. You will not be able to sign into the program until the records have been corrected.

New Eligibility Forms- Two of your eligibility forms have changed and will need to be updated.

1) CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan

This form wants to know about your land, capital, equipment, labor and management.

It will ask you to: Identify the make-up of your farm capital. What percent is 1) FSA payments 2) FSA loans 3) commercial loans 4) private loans 5) non-borrowed capital?

Identify any loans with a co-signer and identify any custom work hired on cash rented land.

2) CCC-926 Adjusted Gross Income Statement

Using your average adjusted gross income for 2005, 2006 and 2007 is the...

- a) Non-farm income \$500,000 or less
- b) Farm income \$750,000 or less
- c) Non-farm income \$1,000,000 or less
- d) Farm income at least 66.66% of gross income

All individuals and all members of an entity must complete this form to earn a payment.

Multi-county producers only have to complete these forms once. Forms will be copied and shared with all counties you do business with.

Land Leases- Please bring your cash rent leases with you when you come to sign up. A large number of you used a cash rent certification last year. This form can only be used this year if 1) you rented the farm in 2008 and 2) you don't want an advance program payment until after June 30.

Transfer of Farm's Administrative County

A change in a farm's administrative county office may be permitted to a neighboring county that currently has an FSA office without completing a farm combination in the receiving county if at least 1 of the following applies:

- the principal dwelling of the farm operator has changed
- a change has occurred in the operation of the land
- there has been a change that would cause the changed administrative County Office to be more accessible, such as a new highway, relocation of the County Office, building site, etc.
- the producer documents that the changed administrative County Office is 'significantly' more convenient.

In and out transfers shall be:

- signed by the farm operator and all owners
- a 1-time option for the producer if done because of convenience (unless a farm change in operation or ownership of the farm has resulted)
- made only to a county that currently has an FSA office and is contiguous to the county where the farm is physically located.

Owners and operators should be aware that eligibility to vote in county committee elections may be affected.

Combination of Farms with 10 Acres or Less of Base

Farms with 10.0 or less of base are not eligible to receive a Direct or Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) payment.

The exception to the rule: If the farm is wholly owned and operated by a Socially Disadvantaged or Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher.

Rules now allow the combination of farms with 10.0 acres or less of crop base.

If the owners involved agree, farms with 10.0 acres or less can be combined with a larger farm or other small farms to meet the size requirement needed to participate in the DCP program.

2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster Program

Last day to apply for crop losses that occurred in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is February 27, 2009.

Milk Income Contract Program (MILC)

Many were told that you would need to complete eligibility paperwork as soon as we received more rules. We are now ready to assist you in completing the necessary forms.

If you plan to participate in a 2009 crop program, you can complete these forms at the time of sign-up.

Keep in mind that MILC program payments cannot be issued until eligibility forms have been completed and approved by the County Committee.



Lamb Referendum

Individuals or entities that engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs from Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec 31, 2008 are eligible to vote in the referendum.

The referendum will determine if the Lamb Check-Off Program will continue or be terminated.

The last day to vote is February 27, 2009. Ballots are available at the office or on-line at www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms. Supporting documentation to prove eligibility must be provided with ballot.

County Committee Election Results

We appreciate all of you who took time to vote. We had good voter participation this year.

Eligible voters in Bath, DeWitt, Eagle, Olive, Victor and Watertown Townships selected John Felzke, of DeWitt, to represent them. We would like to welcome him to the Committee.

We would also like to thank Jim Voisinet for his many years of service and for providing producer insight and representing his area.

Minority Advisor Appointed

Melva Kelley of Ovid was appointed to serve a one year term as a minority advisor to the County Committee. This will be Melva's third year in this position.

Unauthorized Disposal of Grain Being Used for a Commodity Loan

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and could impact the ability to obtain future commodity loans.

A marketing authorization can easily be obtained by visiting the office or making a quick phone call.

Multiple authorizations can be issued if you have made arrangement to sell your grain to more than one purchaser.

Clinton County FSA Office
2343 N US-27, St Johns, MI 48879

Dates to Remember

Feb 27 – Last Day to apply for 2005 – 2007 Disaster Program

Mar 15 - Last Day to apply for NAP on spring crops

Mar 31 - Last Day to apply for a 2008 commodity loan on small grains

May 25 - Office Closed – Memorial Day

May 31 - Last Day to apply for a 2008 commodity loan on corn or soybeans

June 1 - Last Day to apply for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Farm Stored Facility Loans

Bank Account Changes

To avoid any delay in program payments, please remember to notify us if you change the bank account that we have on file at the office.

CRP Land Ownership Changes

To avoid financial penalties, we are asking individuals with CRP contracts to timely notify this office if there is a change in ownership due to sale or death. CRP regulations require contracts to be succeeded to within 60 days of notification of the change of ownership. Failure to succeed could result in financial penalties to you, the original contract holder.



Highly Erodible and Wetland Provisions

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your NRCS representative before you begin work.

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