



# Clinton County FSA News

## Clinton County USDA Service Center

Clinton County FSA  
2343 N US-27  
St Johns, MI 48879  
989-224-3720 (phone)  
989-224-1033 (fax)

### Hours

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

### Website

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### County Committee

Ronald Arens  
John Felzke  
Vacancy

### County Committee Advisor

Melva Kelley

### County Committee Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of each month

### Staff

Linda Applebee  
Amanda Conklin  
Jessica Dennis  
Doreen Schneider  
Mark Walsh – Field Ass't

### County Executive Director

Anita M Perkins

### Farm Loan Manager

Tim Neuhardt



## 2009 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

The deadline to report crops & CRP has been extended until **August 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Producers are required to file a FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to certify planted acres by the final dates listed below to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) – **all cropland** must be certified.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insurable Crop Program (NAP)
- Wool Program

**Normal Acreage Reporting Dates** are **June 30** – for fall seeded crops (ie wheat) and **July 15** – all other crops and CRP.

**Prevented Planting** is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Failed Acreage** reports must be filed before disposition of the crop. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## DCP or ACRE ?

By now most of you understand the Direct and Counter-Cyclical program (DCP). The DCP program has two components 1) a direct payment – which is guaranteed and 2) a counter-cyclical payment –which is based on a 12-month marketing cycle in comparison to the target price.

Now that you are comfortable with the DCP program, we offer a new twist... **ACRE!**

As authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, producers on eligible farms may elect to participate in the Acreage Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). With ACRE producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments
- accept a 20% reduction in the guaranteed direct payment
- accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Acre Payments are revenue based and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market price for planted covered commodity crops on the farm.

LAST  
DAY  
TO  
SIGN-UP  
FOR  
DCP  
OR  
ACRE  
IS  
AUGUST 14

ACRE payments are made only if both of the following triggers are met. First, actual state per acre revenue must be less than the state guarantee. Second, the farm's actual farm revenue must be less than the farm ACRE guarantee.

Eligible Crops – wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans & other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and chickpeas.

Reporting Requirements – producers who participate in ACRE must annually report acreage and **production** to FSA.

Electing ACRE – The program is by FSA farm number, the same as DCP. Only farms with previously established bases are eligible. ACRE election is optional and can be made in any of the next 4 years beginning with the 2009 crop year, **but once an election is made the farm will stay in ACRE until the end of the Farm Bill (2012)**. To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete form CCC-509 ACRE, in which all owners and operators on the farm must sign agreeing to enroll the farm into the ACRE program.

Each farm will need to establish a benchmark farm yield using the previous 5 years production. Producers may report production evidence or use the ACRE plug yields to establish the benchmark farm yield. If production is not available because a different operator was in control of the farm or the crop was not planted, a county plug yield will be used.

Producers who have planted acres that exceed 120% of base acres will have the opportunity to designate which crops they would like used for payment. If a designation is not made by September 30th the acres will be prorated.

Program payment limits  
(per person or entity):

Direct payments: \$40,000 minus the 20% payment reduction

CC or ACRE: \$65,000 plus the 20% direct payment reduction

Just like with DCP, producers will still need to annually enroll into the ACRE program by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Tools are available to help determine if your farm will benefit from the ACRE program. You can visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp> : At the left, click on Direct & Counter Cyclical Program/ACRE – go to Acre Calculator Spreadsheet and click on XLS.

Information you will need for the calculator:

2009 State Benchmark Yields:

Wheat – 66, Corn – 138, Soybeans – 38.5, Barley – 49, Oats – 63.

2009 State ACRE Guarantee Price:

Wheat - \$6.63, Corn - \$4.13\*, Soybeans – \$10.05\*, Barley - \$4.09, Oats - \$2.89

\* indicates a preliminary price which has not been determined final for the program.

### **County Committee Elections**

There is still time to turn in a nomination petition if you are interested in running for a seat on the County Committee.

We will be holding an election in two areas this year:

LAA 1: 1 year term  
Bingham, Duplain, Essex,  
Greenbush and Ovid Twps

LAA 2: 3 year term  
Bengal, Dallas, Lebanon,  
Riley and Westphalia Twps

Petitions must be received in the County Office or postmarked by **Aug 3, 2009**.



## ***New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates***

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, soybeans, barley, oats, and other eligible commodities, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which was based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.**

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan.

## ***2009 Commodity Loan Rates***

Wheat	Red	\$1.82 / bu
	White	2.01
Corn		1.87
Barley		1.67
Oats		1.32
Soybeans		4.93

Loan interest rate for July is 1.50%

Rate adjustment will be made to grain grown on farms enrolled in ACRE.



## ***Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Payments***

### Program Payments

The payment rate for the MILC program is not determined until 30 days after the end of the marketing month. This means we do not receive May's payment rate until the end of June.

FSA issues payments not later than 60 calendar days after FSA receives production evidence for the applicable month, eligibility determination is made, or the entire month's National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost is posted for the applicable month, whichever is later.

Payments are being issued in less than 30 days, unless there are uncontrollable circumstances.

Please be assured that we are issuing MILC payments promptly.

May payments have been processed.

### Milk Start Month

The payment year for the milk program is from October to September.

It is recommended that any operation that does not ship the 2.9 million cwt program limit in 12 months should change their start month to October if it was not already designated at the time of sign-up.

Any changes to the milk starting month must be requested by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to the requested start date.

## ***2008 Final Counter-Cyclical Payments***

There will be no final counter-cyclical (CC) payments for wheat, barley or oats for crop year 2008. The effective price based on a 12-month marketing cycle exceeded the target price.

**SPECIAL  
 ACCOMODATIONS**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for Individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office.

***Farm Stored Facility Loans***

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities.

The 7–year loan is available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently af-fixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

All Farm Stored Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement, for loans over \$50,000 a real estate mortgage is required. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A 15% minimum down payment is also required. Initial application paperwork can be picked up at the county office or mailed upon request.

Dates to Remember	
August 1	Last day to request a farm combination or division
August 3	Last day to turn in a petition for the County Committee Election
August 14	Last day to enroll in DCP or ACRE programs
August 14	Last day to certify crops or CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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