



# 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



## County Committee Election

This is a big election year for our office. There are two vacant seats on the County Committee Board and ***your vote is very important.***

Ballots started arriving in the mail Monday, November 9. The follow areas will be voting this year:

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

Candidates: James Jorae  
Melva Kelley

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

Candidates: Larry Nobis  
Randall Whitney

All candidates are currently part of an active farming operation.

If you did not receive a ballot and think that you are eligible to vote, please contact the office for a ballot.

Ballots must be received in the County Office or postmarked by **Dec 7, 2009.**

Ballots will be opened and tallied on Dec 9, 2009.

***Please don't forget to sign the sticker on the ballot.***

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

## Updating Farm Records for 2010

Reconstitutions - changes that require a farm combination or split should be reported as soon as possible to prevent a delay in program participation. Reconstitutions are completed in the order they are received. Remember, to be effective for the 2010 program year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1, 2010.

Methods of division: Most reconstitutions are divided by the DCP cropland method for tract divisions and the Default method for farm divisions. Two alternate methods of division are available upon request:

**Estate Method** — allows the bases to be distributed as requested by interested parties. This may be used when a parent farm is divided among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — allows the bases to be distributed as requested by interested parties. This may be used when part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted. The buyer and seller must submit a signed Memorandum of Understanding or all individuals can sign the FSA-155 (Request for Reconstitution) agreeing to the designation of bases.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

TIME  
TO  
GET  
FARM  
RECORDS  
UPDATED  
FOR  
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. 2009 final DCP program payments and CRP annual payments are currently being issued through this new system.

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.

We have listed things to look for or reasons for delay in payments under each program.

### DCP Program Payments

- There is a delay in payments to entities, farms with fruit & veg. reductions and individuals with cash rent tenant reductions.
- CCC offset - the new system is calculating the entire 2009 program payment even if you received an advance. If you received an advance payment you will see an offset on your payment slip. We are not collecting any money back, this is an internal adjustment to keep you from being overpaid.

### CRP Program Payments

- There is a delay in payments to entities and contracts with assumptions.

## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

At this time there is no general sign-ups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

However, the CRP program offers the ability to sign into the program under special conditions.

Individuals still must meet basic CRP eligibility rules. Individual must have owned or operated land offered for enrollment for at least 12 months. Land must have been cropped at least 4 years from 1996-2001. Maximum rental rate is based on soil type. Enrollees will receive \$100 signing bonus per acre for enrollment in either Continuous CRP or SAFE.

Continuous CRP- enrolls small environmentally sensitive areas into the CRP program. Practices consist of filter strips, riparian buffers, windbreaks, living snow fences, wetland restoration and shallow water areas.

State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) - we have been selected as 1 of 18 counties to offer this CRP practice option. The practice is a Diverse Grassland Planting and the cover consists of short grasses, tall grasses and oak trees. There are two ways to enroll land.

- Linear Planting- must enroll at least 10 acres- practice consist of a linear planting that connects two area of existing wildlife habitat.
- Block Planting – must enroll at least 30 acres- can consist of multiple fields in close proximity.



## **2010 DCP sign-up**

Cash leases - the content of farm leases provided to county offices for participation in the DCP program is currently under review.

In the near future a newsletter will be issued that provides program information on the 2010 DCP / ACRE program. We will let you know what information is required to be in leases to be acceptable for program eligibility.

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



October is the first month of the 2010 program year for the MILC program. Operations and Individuals participating in the MILC program must complete an CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement for 2010. This certification is no longer continuous and will need to be completed before the payment for milk marketed in October can be issued.

## **Excess Office Equipment**

We are in the possession of some excess office equipment that we would like to get rid of. We will be taking sealed bids on the excess equipment/furniture. Bid process will begin November 16, 2009. Each piece will require a separate bid. Bids must be received in the county office by **COB November 30, 2009**.

Equipment includes:

Accufast Labeler/Tabber  
Various tables  
Small Metal Bookshelf  
Three drawer file cabinet



## **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 a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

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

## **Direct Deposit**

Please remember to update your bank records at our office if you close an account that is receiving program payments by direct deposit.

**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.

**Office Vacancy**

We are looking for someone who can assist other staff members during heavy workload periods. Duties will vary depending on the project. Duties could include activities such as typing, filing, computer data loading, filling out applications or processing applications.

Farm background is not necessary but is helpful.

Temporary: this is a temporary intermittent position. This means that your work schedule will depend on projects and budget. Background check will be required before you can start.

Applications can be picked up at the office and must be returned by **COB November 20, 2009.**

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Nov 11            | Office Closed – Veteran’s Day  |
| Nov. 20           | NAP sales closing date for perennial crops, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, sweet & tart cherries, cranberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, raspberries, rhubarb, and strawberries. |
| Nov 26            | Office Closed – Thanksgiving   |
| Dec. 1            | NAP sales closing date for honey and maple sap   |
| Dec 7             | Last day to vote in County Committee Election  |
| Dec 9             | COC Election Ballots Talled  |
| Dec 25            | Office Closed – Christmas  |

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

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