



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

County Committee
John Felzke
James Jorae
Larry Nobis

**County Committee
Advisor**
Melva Kelley

**County Committee
Meetings**
3rd Tues. of each month

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

**County Executive
Director**
Anita M Perkins

Farm Loan Manager
Tim Neuhardt



Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Compliance

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that the IRS sends to USDA.

This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain income limits.

Individuals and Legal Entities who received a FSA program payment in 2009 or 2010 must:

Complete a CCC-927 (individual) or CCC-928 (entity) and submit it directly to the IRS by **June 15, 2010**.

Entities that earn payment must complete a CCC-928 for the entity and a CCC-927 for each member.

Please make sure you check both boxes if you earned a payment in 2009 and anticipate a payment in 2010.

These forms are available at our office or can be found online at:
<http://intra3.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>

Participants who choose **not** to complete a CCC- 927 or 928 will be considered non-compliant.

Payment Limitations

To be eligible for FSA program benefits, you are required to fill out a CCC-902 that explains your farming operation. Once filed, this form remains in effect unless there is a change could affect your “actively engaged in farming” determination. We will still need to update all land changes.

Change for Entities

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- 1) at least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation.
- 2) the total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000

Purposely providing incorrect data to manipulate payment limitations could result in loss of program benefits. The information provided is subject to an end-of-year review.

Program Payment Limitations:

DCP	Direct Payment	\$ 40,000
	Counter-Cyclical	65,000
	ACRE	65,000
CRP		50,000
NAP		100,000
SURE		100,000

TIME
TO
GET
FARM
RECORDS
UPDATED
FOR
2010

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to the prior Ad Hoc Crop Disaster Programs. Unlike the prior USDA Disaster Programs, SURE is legislated through 2011. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer and all hay crops.

Eligible Farms - SURE payments are available to producers on farms that are located in a county covered in a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or in a contiguous county OR the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

Eligible Producers - To be eligible for the SURE Program, all of the farming operation's crops (planted or intended) that are of economic significance must be covered by either Federal Crop Insurance (CI) or FSA's Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. Coverage must also be obtained for other crops for which CI or NAP is available, such as nursery, honey, and floriculture. However, coverage for grazed crops is not required for SURE. Eligible farmers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farm do not have to meet the Federal Crop Insurance requirement.

Payment Calculation - Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue.

Disaster Program Guarantee - The guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected. Higher levels of coverage will result in higher crop guarantees.

For NAP crops, the guarantee is based on a formula that includes the yield, acreage, and price factors. The farms Disaster Program guarantee cannot exceed 90% of the expected revenue for the farm.

Total Farm Revenue - Included in the Total Farm Revenue calculation are estimated crop value, CI indemnities, NAP payments, Market Assistance Loan proceeds, other disaster payments, DCP payments (15% of direct payments, plus all CC payments and ACRE payments).

Sure Calculator - To assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE Calculator. Note that to qualify for SURE; producers need to obtain CI or NAP on all crops in all counties in all states. To utilize the Calculator, visit the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov Under "I want to" in the upper right corner, click on "View Farm Bill Information".

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) for 2010.

Sign-up: until June 1, 2010

We are currently signing individuals up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. 22% Advance Payment is available to be requested at the time of sign-up with final payment being issued in October. Producers with a large number of farms are encouraged to call for an appointment.

2010 leases must include: 1) landowner & operators signatures and printed name 2) signature dates 3) type of lease and 4) length of lease, i.e.: 3 yr lease from 2010 – 2013

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.

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, 10 or 12 year loan is available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

All Farm Stored Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. Initial application paperwork can be picked up at the county office or mailed upon request.

January FSFL loan interest rates:

2.875% - 7 year loan
3.375% - 10 year loan
3.750% - 12 year loan

Interest rate will be the rate in effect at the time of closing.

Direct Deposit

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 accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.



Signature Requirements

Spouses may sign all program applications without having a power of attorney. If for some reason you do not want your spouse to sign your name on program documents we must be notified in writing.

Exception: Commodity Loans - both spouses must sign for commodity loans, marketing authorizations and lock-in repayment rates unless you have a power of attorney on file.

Foreign Investors

Federal Law requires that foreign persons who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in agricultural land must report these holdings to FSA within 90 days of any changes. Failure to report could result in fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the land in question.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant.

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.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

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 Employee Needed

Clinton County FSA Office will be accepting applications for one full Program Technician until January 28, 2010.

A program technician is responsible for carrying out general office activities and administering assigned FSA programs to area farmers and landowners.

Applications and a copy of the full vacancy announcement can be picked up at the county office or on the internet at [Http://jobsearch.usdajobs.gov](http://jobsearch.usdajobs.gov) (control # 1781226).

Dates to Remember	
Jan 4	Sign-up for 2008 SURE program began
Jan 28	Last day to apply for office vacancy
Feb 16	Office Closed – President’s Day
June 1	Last day to apply for DCP/ACRE
Continuous	CRP – Continuous and SAFE sign-up
Continuous	Farm Stored Facility Loans
July 15	ACRE participants - Last day to submit production evidence to establish farm benchmark yield

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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 (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.