



# 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

**Staff**  
Linda Applebee  
Amanda Lee  
Valerie Prosser  
Doreen Schneider  
Mark Walsh- Field Ass't

**County Executive  
Director**  
Anita M Perkins

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Tim Neuhardt

**County Committee  
Meetings**

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



## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Sign-up: August 2 – August 27, 2010

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10-15 years.

### Basic Eligibility Requirements:

Eligible Producer: To be eligible for CRP a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to August 27, 2010. (There are some exceptions to this rule in relation to death of a previous owner, land reacquired by foreclosure, etc)

Eligible Land: To be eligible for CRP land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the previous 6 years (2002-2007) and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Land currently enrolled in CRP that expires Sept 30, 2010 is eligible for re-enrollment.

**Rental Rates:** In return for establishing and maintaining a long-term resource-conserving cover, participants are paid an annual rental payment. We will calculate a maximum rental rate by using the 3 predominate soils in the area being offered. Each soil type has a dollar value.

Participants may offer that land at that rate or offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

**Ranking CRP Offers:** Offers for CRP are ranked according to the Environmental Benefit Index (EBI). Producers will receive points for wildlife habitat, water quality, erosion control, location, air quality and cost. A cut off point value will be announced after the end of sign-up and those offers above the cutoff point will be accepted.

### Program Practices:

- CP1 establishment of perm. grasses
- CP2 establishment of perm. native grasses
- CP3 softwood tree planting
- CP3A hardwood tree planting (15 yr)
- CP4B wildlife habitat – corridors
- CP4D permanent wildlife habitat
- CP-10 grasses already established (for expiring CRP)
- CP11 trees already established (for expiring CRP)
- CP12 food plots
- CP25 rare & declining habitat (area specific)

**CRP Sign-up Process:** You will need to make an appointment when you are ready to sign-up. Depending on your situation, sign-up may require a couple visits.

To prepare for the offer we will need to identify the land, determine eligibility, and calculate a maximum rental rate.

**Withdrawing Your Offer:** You have the right to withdraw your offer, in writing, any-time prior to the end of sign-up without penalties. After that, liquidated damages will apply if your offer is accepted and you wish to withdraw from the program.

**Accepted Offers:** As soon as we know, we will notify you if your CRP offer has been accepted or rejected.

### Dates to Remember

- July 30 – Last Day to request a farm reconstitution
- August 2 – Last Day to return nominating petition for COC LAA-1 election
- August 27 – Last Day to enroll in General CRP
- August 31 - FSA, NRCS and Soil Cons. District Food Drive ends.
- September 6 – Office Closed / Labor Day
- September 30 – Crop year 2011 sales closing date for non-insurable crops (NAP)

**Accepted Offers (cont):** If accepted you will work with NRCS or an approved Technical Service Provider. They will write a plan specific to the establishment and maintenance of your approved practice. You will have one year to seed or plant your practice and up to three years to work with it to insure that it is properly established.

Split fields will require a paid for measurement service to determine the boundaries.

All accepted offers are scheduled to be effective October 1, 2010.



### **2008 & 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)**

The 2008 SURE Program continues to be available for those interested persons who feel they suffered a 2008 crop loss due to natural disaster conditions. At this time, a deadline has not been announced regarding this program. Please contact this office for additional information.

The 2009 SURE Program sign up has not been announced as of the date of this newsletter. Producer's who feel they suffered a 2009 crop loss due to natural disaster conditions are encouraged to contact the FSA Office at this time. We will put your name on a register and once additional information is given regarding the sign up period and qualifications, we will contact you.

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