



Emmet-Charlevoix County News

October 2011

Issue #1

Emmet-Charlevoix County USDA Service Center

Emmet-Charlevoix County FSA
2235 E. Mitchell Rd.
Petoskey, MI. 49770
231-347-2133 ext. 2 (phone)
231-347-8170 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Wilson Boss – Chairperson
Beverly Hinkley – Vice Chairperson
Richard Gregory – Member
Charlene Fettig – Advisor

The County Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30 a.m. Open to the public.

Staff
Jessica Chandler – Program Technician

Carmen A. Church – County Executive Director



2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

The beginning enrollment date for 2012 DCP and ACRE will be **January 23, 2012**. There will not be an advance payment for the 2012 program.

2012 ACRE elections (CCC-509 ACRE) may be made any time before June 1, 2012.

COC ELECTION

COC elections provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by running for a seat on FSA COC. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider running for these seats.

This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 is up for election. LAA 2 consists of the following townships: Resort, Bear Creek, Springvale, Hayes, Bay, Evangeline, Melrose, Chandler, and Hudson.

Ballots are to be mailed around November 4, 2011 and must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 5, 2011.

The County Committee will then count the ballots at their December 6, 2011 meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is open to the public.

Marketing Assistance Loans & Rates

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest. The MAL provides an influx of cash when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows, which allows the producer to delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge.

The final date to request a loan on 2012 small grains and honey is March 31, 2012 and May 31, 2012 for feed grain and oilseeds.

Emmet Loan Rates

Crop	Loan Rate
Red Wheat	\$2.03
White Wheat	\$2.18
Corn	\$1.77
Barley	\$1.80
Oats	\$1.38
Soybeans	\$4.86
Sunflowers	\$8.75

Charlevoix Loan Rates

Crop	Loan Rate
Red Wheat	\$2.03
White Wheat	\$2.18
Corn	\$1.77
Barley	\$1.80
Oats	\$1.38
Soybeans	\$4.86
Sunflowers	\$8.75

Interest Rates for October 2011

Commodity Loan	1.125%
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FARM CHANGES

Please notify our office well in advance of your DCP appointment any changes in farms that need to be added as well as any that you are no longer working. Changes do not update until the following day. For your farm listing to be correct when you sign up or certify please tell us those changes now. This includes changes to LLC's, Partnerships and Corporations.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11 – Office closed for Veterans Day.

November 24 – Office closed for Thanksgiving.

December 26 – Office closed for Christmas.

January 2 – Office closed for New Year's Day.

January 16 – Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

February 20 – Office closed for President's Day.

Continues – Farm Storage Facility Loan.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

Background:

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 Noninsurable 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 CI requirement.

Payment Calculations:

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".



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Low cost financing for storage facilities is available for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans, corn, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables. Loan terms of 7, 10, and 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

ANNUAL PAYMENT LIMITATION NOTICE

Payments for all FSA farm programs are governed by payment limitation and payment eligibility requirements. Payment limitations per person for 2010 are \$40,000 for Direct Payments (DCP); \$65,000 for Counter Cyclical Payments (DCP) and ACRE payments; \$50,000 for CRP; no limits for market gains and LDP's; \$100,000 for Disaster Assistance Programs; and \$100,000 for NAP.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact this County Office in person or by phone at 989-733-2694, ext. 2.

SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.



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, audiotope, 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.