



February, 2009



Gladwin Clare County News

Gladwin USDA Service Center

Gladwin Clare FSA
1501 N. State Street
Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-9461 (phone)
989-426-4914 (fax)

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

County Committee
Ken Brown, Chairman
Dick Brushaber
Jim Eberhart
Mark Iciek
Randy Sheehan
Linda Freier, Advisor

County Committee meets
3rd Wednesday of each
month

Staff
Jessie Engelhardt
Brenda Inscho
Peggy McKimmy, CED



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Dick Brushaber! Dick was re-elected to represent farmers from Buckeye, Hay, S. Grim, Tobacco, Billings, and Bentley Townships on the county committee. Dick was elected to his second consecutive term. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

At their meeting in January the county committee elected Ken Brown as Chairperson, Dick Brushaber, Vice-Chairperson and Jim Eberhart, Mark Iciek, and Randy Sheehan as regular members. Linda Freier is the committee's advisor.

DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. You can sign-up now online or at the Gladwin office. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments between the months of January and September, if requested. **PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**

MILC Sign-Up Has Begun

Signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) is underway and will continue through the program's expiration date, Sept. 30, 2012.

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes the MILC Program. MILC payments are based on a payment rate percentage that is multiplied by the difference between a flexible target (\$16.94 per cwt. or higher) and the specific month's Boston Class I price of milk. A "feed cost adjuster," is factored in to adjust the \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt.) benchmark price upward depending on the cost of feed rations

The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the provisions for payment eligibility and adjusted gross income (AGI). If an individual or entity has **non-farm** AGI greater than \$500,000, the individual or entity is not eligible for MILC benefits. ***For more information on the MILC program, contact the Gladwin USDA Service Center.***

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

New Payment Limits

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the Adjusted Gross Income limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average **non-farm AGI of \$500,000 and a farm AGI of \$750,000**. AGI's higher than these levels could disqualify a producer for payments under all commodity, price support, and disaster assistance programs.

Also, individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" to be eligible for specific payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination thereof; **and** (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination thereof.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for payments to be made timely, it is important to notify the FSA county office of any changes to your account.

NAP Coverage Deadlines

It is time to be thinking about Non Insured Acreage Program for spring crops. This program gives yield protection from weather related events such as drought and flooding. NAP is available for crops which are not covered by traditional crop insurance. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

Gladwin Farm Show

The Gladwin Farm Show will be held March 19th, 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. The emphasis will be educational, telling agriculture's story to the general public. We would welcome your farm's display. Become part of an exciting new project and help us get the word out! Call MSU Extension Service at 426-7741 or the FSA Office at 426-9461 for more information.

Annual Tree Sale

The Gladwin Conservation District will be holding its annual tree sale this spring. For ordering information call Nancy Mielke at 989-426-9621 ext. 3.

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 16	Office closed to observe Presidents' Day
Mar. 16	Last day to purchase NAP
Mar. 19	Gladwin Farm Show
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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