



Gladwin Clare County News

Gladwin Clare USDA Service Center

Gladwin Clare FSA
1501 N. State St.
Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-9461 (phone)
989-426-4914 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
Ken Brown, Chairman
Dick Brushaber, Vice
Chairman
Jim Eberhart
Mark Iciek
Derry Breault
Linda Freier, Advisor

County Committee meets
3rd Wednesday each
month

Staff
Jessie Engelhardt, PT
Brenda Inscho, PT
Marlene Starr, PT
Kevin Davis, Reporter
Peggy McKimmy, CED

Jerry Spickerman, FLM



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

We are happy to announce that Derry Breault has been elected to serve on the Gladwin Clare County Committee. Tom Hetherington will serve as first alternate, and Linda Freier was elected second alternate. Thanks to all who took the time to vote! Derry represents producers in Sherman, Butman, Clement, Bourret, Gladwin, Secord, and North Grim Townships.

Congratulations, too, to Mark Iciek who was re-elected for his 2nd term representing Sage, Grout, and Beaverton Townships. Roger Haines is his alternate.

At their meeting on January 20, the Committee elected Ken Brown as Chairman, Dick Brushaber as Vice-Chairman, and Linda Freier advisor.

The County Committee meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are open to the public. Feel free to attend!

DCP SIGN-UP

It's time to be thinking about the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) for 2010. Sign-up is in progress and will continue until **June 1st**. Farms with "base" acres can enroll and receive a payment on 83% of the base acres.

Advance payments are available again this year at 22% of the Direct payment. You may choose any month from now until September to receive an advance.

Signatures from landlords are required when an advance payment is requested before June 1st. A lease agreement must include:

- Landowner & Operator names printed and signatures
- Signature dates
- The type of lease (cash, barter, etc., with terms)
- Length of lease if multiple years

Farms with less than 10.0 acres of base will be ineligible for payments. Exceptions apply to socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers.

Once again, we're asking you to call ahead for an appointment to enable us to have your record changes done and paperwork ready for you.

**BCAP
BIO-MASS CROP
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**ATTENTION TIMBER
HARVESTERS!**

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to give a special thank-you to Randy Sheehan for his 9 years of service on the Gladwin County Committee.

Randy willingly gave his time and expertise to represent his fellow agricultural producers on the committee.

The County Committee process works because of people like Randy!

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

For more information on BCAP Matching Payment Program, please visit FSA's BCAP website at www.fsa.usda.gov/energy and contact us at the Gladwin Office.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page." **For more information, call the county office.**

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires a producer to comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; a report of cropland acreage on the farm must be filed and the commodity must meet CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized disposition are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.





Farm Recons

In FSA terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution or “recon” is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

Please call us as soon as you know of changes to your farm “constitution.” It takes us a few days to get these changes made and have your farm ready for sign-up.



ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has finalized a plan with the Internal Revenue Service to establish a 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 IRS sends to USDA.

This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules **must annually certify their eligibility to receive benefits** by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainser_vlet.

Actively Engaged in Farming Rules

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be ‘actively engaged’ in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

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:

- 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;
- the total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers who have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers who intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it’s critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't choose to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please check with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland.

MID-MICHIGAN FARM SHOW (FORMERLY GLADWIN FARM SHOW)

The "new and improved" farm show will be held March 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Lunch featuring home-made Michigan products, catered by Dawn Fresh Catering (Ebels) of Falmouth, will be available at the show.

Come early and spend the day.

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 15	Office Closed to observe Presidents' Day
Feb. 24	County Committee meets
March 15	Final day to purchase crop insurance and NAP
March 23	Mid-Michigan Farm Show
June 1	Final day to enroll DCP
July 15	Crop Reporting Deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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