



# Gratiot County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

August 2010

*Gratiot County  
USDA Service Center*

**Gratiot County FSA**  
301 Commerce Dr.  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
(989) 875-3900 (phone)  
(989) 875-4500 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

**County Committee**  
Andrea Ackels  
Scott Apple  
Olan Humm  
Doreen Slavik

**Gratiot County  
Committee meets  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of  
each month**

**Staff**  
Melissa Dettloff, PT  
Teri Hedrick, PT  
Nancy Holland, PT  
Sandy McCrimmon, PT  
Jeff Pearsall, PT  
Kay Perkins, PT  
Teresa Stewart, FLOT  
Tim Neuhardt, FLM  
Steve Markley, CED

**Field Reporters:**  
Ray Kindel  
Dave Wright

## Dates to Remember

**August 1** – Deadline to request reconstitutions for 2010 crop year  
**August 2** – Deadline for COC nominating petitions to be returned  
**August 2-27** – General CRP sign up period  
**September 1** – final date to certify production for ACRE  
**September 6** – Office closed, Labor Day  
**September 30** – Crop Year 2011 sales closing date for non insurable crops begin  
**Ongoing**  
– Farm Storage Facility Loans  
– Continuous CRP & CREP



## CRP General Sign-up Announced

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup will begin on August 2, 2010 and continue through August 27, 2010.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. The general signup allows producers, if accepted, to enroll entire fields in the program.

CRP contract holders will plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share assistance and technical assistance. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into contracts of 10 to 15 years.

Interested producer's must contact their local FSA office no later than August 27<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of determining if their eligibility requirements are met prior to submitting their bid. We encourage all interested producers and landowners to contact us at their earliest convenience to ensure the timeliness of applications and the deadlines are met.



For more information regarding this program please contact the Gratiot County Farm Service Agency at (989) 875-3900, Ext. 2.

## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is available to all producers of non insurable crops through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Division insures only specific crops in each county.

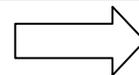
As the current legislation reads, if a natural disaster condition occurs, in order for a producer to be eligible for any assistance through the Farm Service Agency, all crops of economic significance must be insured either through RMA and/or Farm Service Agency for those non insurable crops.

The importance of this program is not realized until a disaster occurs. Please review your farm plans for the upcoming growing season and determine if NAP would benefit you. The cost to insure those crops through the Farm Service Agency is \$250.00 per crop, not to exceed \$750.00 per county and \$1875.00 per producer for all counties. Those non-insurable crops include:

- **Forage** (alfalfa, alfalfa mix, clover) – Deadline 9/30/2010
- **Spring-planted vegetables** (including cucumbers) – Deadline 3/15/2011

**Please note:** This is not a complete listing of eligible crops for the NAP program.

If you would like additional information on this program, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office.



## **Payments.....**

With the upcoming cycle of program payments to be issued beginning in October, we encourage all participants to review their Direct Deposit information to ensure that FSA records remain accurate. Direct Deposit changes that are not reported timely may cause delays in payments.

## **Follow-up on Wind Turbines**

There are many questions about the possibility of placing wind turbines on CRP acreage. In relation to land under CRP contract, **BEFORE** any ground is moved, these are the steps you should take:

1. *Place a request with the FSA office to initiate the required environmental review*
2. *The County Committee has the ability to authorize the installation of the turbine should the environmental review be confirmed*
3. *If authorized, construction of access roads/turbine can start*
4. *When construction is complete, the producer will pay FSA to perform a measurement*
5. *Producer will repay all annual payments plus interest plus penalties for acreage removed (not including the turbine itself)*

The Michigan FSA state office restated that **no** access roads, ancillary equipment, substations, or transformers will be allowed on acreage under CRP contract. **It is highly recommended CRP participants consider the placement of these components off CRP acreage to avoid possible repayments and penalties.**

## **Address Changes**

County newsletters are mailed from a central site. If you receive multiple newsletters, or if you are not interested in the material provided, please inform us so the necessary corrections can be made.

## **Employee News**

Personnel changes have taken place recently in the Gratiot FSA office. Please welcome Teresa Stewart to the FSA farm loan staff in Gratiot County. Teresa has a strong agricultural background and has been employed with FSA for over four years. She will be stationed in the Gratiot office while working with farm loan customers throughout Gratiot, Clinton, and Saginaw Counties, helping with the various forms of loan making and loan servicing.

Shelly Dickinson, program technician for Farm Loan Programs, recently accepted a job with the Branch County FSA office, working with farm programs. We wish Shelly well in her new role at her new office.

## ***2008 SURE Program***

The 2008 SURE Program (Supplemental Revenue Assistance) is available for producers who may have suffered a 2008 crop loss due to natural disaster conditions. A deadline has yet to be announced. If interested, please contact this office for additional information as soon as possible.

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