



August 2010

Huron County FSA News

Huron County FSA Service Center

1460 S. Van Dyke Road
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

989.269.9549 (phone)
989.269.8421 (fax)

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Committee

Debra Kubacki
Ken Koroleski
Mark Roggenbuck
Lisa Szymanski, Advisor

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 9:30 a.m.

Farm Program Staff

Becky Aubuchon
Douglas Gay
Connie Mattice
Maggie Roggenbuck
Susan Sauer
Sandy Duda
Charlie Errer

Nathan Prill, Director

Farm Loan Staff

Ava Hacker
Wendy Honoway

Bob Catherwood, Manager

August 10, 2010



Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-up Underway – Bids Accepted August 2 – August 27

CRP is a voluntary program that provides opportunities for farmers and landowners to use their environmentally-sensitive land for conservation benefits.

Producers enrolling in CRP 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 for 10 to 15 years.

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

To be eligible for CRP, land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

This General CRP Sign-up is a nationally competitive bid process. Local producers can bid scenarios (For example: keep existing grass cover, plant trees, plant a food plot, etc) and are awarded 'points' based on the environmental benefits the practice provides versus other practices.

Participants will need to decide what type of practice cover they would implement on their acreage bid for CRP. We can give you an idea of what your score is under various scenarios and what the rental rate would be if the bid is accepted.

Here is a summary of some of the practices you may choose to implement on your CRP bid:

CP1: Permanent introduced grasses and legumes;

10 points for planting of 2 – 3 species of an introduced grass species,
40 points for planting a mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.

CP2: Establishment of permanent native grasses and legumes.

20 points for planting a mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb or legume species beneficial to wildlife,
50 points for planting a mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.

CP3 Tree Planting (general)

- 10 points for planting northern conifers (softwoods) – solid stand with more than 850 pines/softwoods per acre.
- 50 points for planting northern conifers (softwoods) at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre with 10% – 20% openings managed to a CP4d wildlife cover.

Conservation Practices Continued:

CP3A – Hardwood tree planting

- 10 points for a solid stand of non-mast producing hardwood species
- 20 points for solid stand of single hard mast producing species
- 30 points for mixed stand of 2 hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area
- 50 points for a mixed stand (3 or more species) of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.

CP4D Permanent wildlife habitat

- 40 points for a mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area.
- 50 points for a mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized

CP10 Vegetative cover, grass already established.

- 10 points for solid stand of 1 to 3 species of introduced grasses
- 40 points for solid stand of 1 to 3 species of native grasses
- 50 points for mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited to wildlife in the area.

CP11 Vegetative cover, trees already established

- 10 points for a solid stand of pine/softwood or solid stand of non-mast producing hardwood species
- 20 points for a solid stand of single hard mast producing species
- 30 points for a mixed stand (2 species) of hardwoods best suited for wildlife
- 50 points for mixed stand (3 or more species) of hardwoods
- 50 pine/softwood established at, or thinned as needed, to provide 10 to 20% openings of native



CP12 Wildlife food plot

- Food plots are small non cost shared plantings in a larger area
- 5 points is available
- Food plots will never be the predominant cover, and must be used in conjunction with another practice cover.

CP25 Rare and declining habitat restoration

- Seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area
- 50 points – plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.

Participants can optimize their bid offer by offering an amount less than the Maximum Payment Rental Rate.

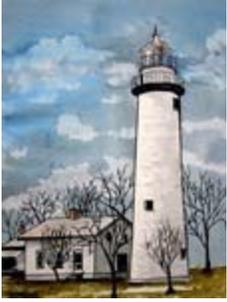
Only one landowner signature is needed to place a bid by the end date of August 27th. If your bid is accepted at the national level, then all landowners listed on the recorded deed will be required to sign the CRP-1 Contract.

If your bid is accepted at the National Level, and after the August 27th deadline, and you decide not to enroll your land in the CRP program liquidated damages will apply at 25% of the rental rate x the number of acres bid.

Please contact the office at 989.269.9549, extension 2 for an appointment, if you are interested in submitting a competitive bid.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain under Loan

If loan grain has been sold, fed, or disposed of in any manner without prior written authorization (Marketing Authorization) from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.



Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary



Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

With the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, producers of eligible commodities can obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15-20 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 80-85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department (currently 2.50% to 3.375%).

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass, Fruits and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support programs, please contact the office.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have 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 your office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.





Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres

DCP/ACRE participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as “contract acres” must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Failure to control weeds on contract acres will cost you program benefits if the COC determines the producer failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

Dates to Remember	
8/2 – 8/27	General CRP Signup
9/1	Final date to provide 2009 production records for ACRE program
9/6	Office Closed for Labor Day
9/30	Final date to provide cash rental agreements for 2010 DCP/ACRE payments
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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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.