



# Ingham County News

**Ingham/Livingston County  
USDA Service Center**

**Ingham/Livingston County FSA**  
521 N Okemos St  
Mason, MI 49954  
517-676-4644 (phone)  
517-676-7011 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

**County Committee**  
Jeff Oesterle Chair  
Vern Elliott Vice-Chair  
Joan Wright  
Gary Hoisington  
Terrence Butler

County Committee meets  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

**Staff**  
Ronda K Bozek-Smith, CED  
JoAnna Rogers, PT  
Karen Vozarik, PT  
Gretchen Wasper, PT  
Ralph Huss, Field Tech

Farm Loan Manager  
Dave Hemker  
Phone 989-723-8263



## The ACRE Program

**Sign up in the new ACRE program option runs from April 27, 2009 through August 14, 2009!!**

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Sign up in the DCP Program has also been extended to August 14, 2009.

**Please note;**  
**Farm changes should be submitted immediately to allow for processing in time for sign up and crop reporting. Be sure to bring legal documents with descriptions and leases when needed.**

The Ingham FSA office will be holding ACRE informational meetings at the Mason Service Center on Mondays at 2:30 PM and Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. The meetings will start May 13, 2009. Call 517-676-4644 Ext 2, to confirm meeting. This will be your opportunity to ask questions about the new program without making an appointment.

### Dates to Remember

4/27/2009	Sign-up in ACRE begins
5/18/2009	Last day for second 2008 RMA and NAP buy in.
5/31/2009	Last day to request 2008 Corn and Soybean Loans
6/30/2009	Last day to report fall seeded crops timely.
7/15/2009	Last day to report spring seeded crops timely.
8/1/2009	Last day to request farm changes
8/3/2009	Last day to submit COC nominations for LAA 1 & 4
8/14/2009	Extended- Last day to sign into the DCP and ACRE Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and SAFE

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE VISITING THE INGHAM COUNTY FSA OFFICE**  
Call 517-676-4644 Ext. 2



## Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

### MILC Program Payments

Due to low milk prices FSA will be making payments for February milk sales to producers who enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Program and selected February or a prior month to start.

Sign up in this program is continuous through 2012, but the start month can be no earlier than the month you enroll.

If are enrolled and you wish to change your payment start date from the month originally selected you **MUST** request the change by the 14<sup>th</sup> of month prior to your new start month. Please note, start months cannot be changed for a fiscal year once a payment has been made.

It is the producer's responsibility to submit milk marketing receipts for every month once their start month is reached. This is true even if no payments will be received for that month.

Please include a cover sheet when faxing milk receipts so we can clearly identify the sender!

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged", "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

### NAP Production Reporting



Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

**All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

### Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. A Notice of Loss is required on for **ALL CROPS COVERED BY NAP INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days after the normal harvest date.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

**If you have a U Pick operation or sell by the roadside, you must have your production appraised to receive payment for losses. Contact us during and immediately following final harvest.**

## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. The definition of a beginning farmer is a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Contact your FSA Office or go to- [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)



## Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30, 2009 deadline on small grains and a July 15, 2009 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30, 2009 for small grains and July 15, 2009 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Please call for an appointment as soon as you have finished planting. We do not recommend that you do both acreage reporting and DCP/ACRE enrollment in the same appointment. We are required to do all new eligibility papers for the 2009 crop year and with DCP contracts to run as well, this could make for a VERY long appointment.

**Remember to bring your planting dates for all crops and fields.**



## CREP, SAFE & Continuous CRP Available



At this time USDA has no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practice, and Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental and financial benefits to select areas.

## Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most USDA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop (sodbuster), as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Further, USDA participants are prohibited from converting wetlands for agricultural production purposes (swampbuster) and planting an agricultural commodity on converted wetlands.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers come into the FSA office ahead of time to file an AD 1026 for referral to NRCS. It is necessary for NRCS to review any actions which could result in the modification of an area determined wet. This includes, any clearing of trees or brush and draining, dredging, filling or plans to install, maintain or improve tile.

Taking the time now to file an AD 1026 with FSA could save you delays and the possible loss of program payments!!!!

## 2009 County Committee Elections

We are now accepting nominating petitions from LAA #1 and 4 for eligible voters who want to become a County Committee member. You will soon receive a newsletter with a nominating petition. If you have questions on who is eligible to vote or run for the COC please contact our office at:  
517-676-4644



### Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.



### Save Time- Get On Line

E-File is part of the USDA effort to better serve you through the Internet. E-File gives you access to forms and account information relating to programs and allows you to fill out and submit documents electronically.

To get registered go to:  
<http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and create a level 2 account.

After you are registered you will have to come into the FSA office to get "authenticated" using your driver license. We then go in and approve you and link you up to our programs so that you will be able to do many functions without coming into the office. An email will be sent to you confirming your approval and giving you instructions to complete the registration process. It's easy and can save time and gas!

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.