



Ingham/Livingston County
USDA Service Center

**Ingham/Livingston
County FSA**
521 N Okemos St
Mason, MI 48854
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
Vern Elliott – Chairperson
Gary Hoisington- Vice Chair
Terrence Butler
Larry Minnis
Russell Oesterle
Jeanine Igl- COC Advisor

County Committee meets
2nd Thursday each month
9: 30 am- address above

Staff
Ronda Bozek-Smith, CED
Joanna Rogers PT
Karen Vozarik PT
Gretchen Wasper PT
Nicole Weston Temp. PT
Ralph Huss Field Tech.

COC Election Calendar

Nov. 5, 2010 Ballots mailed
for LAA 2 and 3
Dec 6, 2010 Last day to
return ballots.
Dec. 9, 2010 Ballots Counted



Ingham County FSA News

CRP General Signup 39

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis, however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup **August 2 through August 27, 2010.**

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. 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. Alfalfa and other multi-year grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wild-life habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

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In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance. Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

*We will be holding **CRP Public Information meetings** in the Ingham FSA Conference Room, 521 N Okemos St Mason, MI.*

August 13, 2010- 9:00 am to 10:30 am
August 17, 2010- 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
August 18, 2010- 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Or call for an appointment!

2009 ACRE Yield Deadline Extended to September 1, 2010 !

Producers who signed into the ACRE program on their farms in 2009 are required to submit their actual yields to the FSA Office each year. They are also required to establish historical yields for 2004-2008. The deadline to submit these yields or select the plug yields was originally July 15, 2010. Because of late crop certification the deadline has been extended to September 1, 2010! If yields are not submitted by this date the farm will not be eligible for 2009 ACRE payments that may be earned! If you signed into the ACRE program and have not submitted your completed FSA 658 forms please contact our office immediately to get this done! You may also submit your 2010 wheat yields at this time.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup Deadline: September 30, 2010 !!!

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. Crop insurance or NAP coverage is not required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm;
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008, therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE.

Signup is currently ongoing but producers who qualify **must visit the FSA office and sign up for 2008 benefits by September 30, 2010** or they will be unable to apply for that year!

Production for all 2008 crops must be submitted. If you had crop insurance but did not have a loss or if you had GRP or GRIP policies where no yields were submitted to RMA, you must bring us your production evidence or your yield report from crop insurance. If you had the 2008 "Buy In" for NAP crops or

Crop Insurance you must submit yields for these crops.

There is a lot of information needed for the calculation of these payments, so don't wait until the last minute to apply.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher: Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract, agree to conservation and land improvements in accordance with a sustainable farm conservation plan, agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires. Contact your FSA office for more information.

Conservation Compliance Reminder

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new cropland, breaking out additional cropland, shortening an established cropping rotation, planting new crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact your local County office BEFORE modifying (tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling) any wetland or drainage ditch.

Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and program eligibility.

Ingham and Livingston Counties Welcome NRCS District Conservationist, Karry Trickey

District Conservationist, Karry Trickey has worked for the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service for the last 15 years and was the District Conservationist in Charlotte since January of 2002. She came to Mason in April of 2010 as the new District Conservationist for Ingham and Livingston Counties. She has previously worked in Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton and Hillsdale Counties. Karry is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America and serves on the Ingham Groundwater Stewardship team.

Karry also belongs to the German Short-haired Pointer Club of America, American Quarter Horse Association, Foundation Quarter Horse Association of America and, Palomino Horse Breeders' Association. Karry resides in Ingham County with her husband Doug and daughter Jenelle on a small farm.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Our Partners in Conservation Programs

The Conservation Districts provide technical and community support to the Farm Service Agency and their Boards sign all Conservation Plans for enrolled CRP farms. The Districts also administer grants and some state sponsored conservation initiatives.

The Ingham Conservation District

The office is currently located at 1031 Dexter Trail, Mason, MI 48854
Phone 517-676-2290

Upcoming Events:

- *Ingham Conservation District's Tree Catalog will soon be available.
- *5-K Green Space Race, October 10, 2010
- *Adopt-A-Stream volunteer opportunities
- *Volunteer Days at the District
- *Annual Tree and Wildflower Sales

Please check their website for more information.

www.inghamconservation.com

The Livingston Conservation District

On October 27, 2007 the Livingston District moved out of the Howell location and is currently operating as a "virtual office".

Email address: admin@livingstoncd.org

Website address: www.livingstoncd.org

Upcoming Events:

- *4th Annual Family Fun Field Day, September 18, 2010, Iosco Nature Center
- *Annual Tree Sales
- *No-till drill rental

Shrub borders give the edge to wildlife

By Karry A. Trickey District Conservationist, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ingham/Livingston County.

Got a well-kept farm, but not as much wildlife as you would like?

Could be you have very little edge habitat, that zone of shrubs, grasses, legumes and weeds between forests and crop fields. For wildlife habitat, you want a "soft" or gradual transition from crop field to woodland, rather than an abrupt change from one to the other. Shrubs commonly recommended for borders include lespedeza, silky dogwood, American plum, chokecherry,

A mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees offers a diversity of habitat that will attract a diversity of wildlife. You can improve the shrub border's value to wildlife by adding ten more feet of grasses or legumes on the crop side of the border.

For more information on conservation practices and financial help offered through the USDA, including FSA's Conservation Reserve Program, stop by or call our office at 521 N. Okemos Road, Mason, MI 48854
Phone: 517-676-4644 Ext 3

Farm Changes

Every year farmers add and drop farms from their operation. For participation and compliance purposes it is important that these changes be brought to the FSA office as soon as possible. If you rent a new farm you may need to bring the legal description and a lease from the owner. Contact our office for an appointment.

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 2.5% 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.

Dates to Remember

8/27/2010	CRP General Sign up Ends
9/1/2010	Deadline for ACRE Yields
9/30/2010	End 2008 SURE Sign up
9/30/2010	Last Date to buy NAP for fall seeded crops and perennials (hay)
11/5/2010	COC ballots mailed
12/1/2010	Last date to buy NAP coverage for maple sap
12/6/2010	Last day to return COC ballots
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.