



Isabella County News

June 2010

Issue No. 2

**Isabella County FSA
USDA Service Center**
5979 E Broadway Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-772-5927, Ext. 2
989-773-0480 (fax)

Web Sites
www.sc.egov.usda.gov
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
William M. Brewer, Chair
James D. Judge, Jr.
Joyce R. Conners
Beth Bryant - Advisor

COC meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 A.M.

Staff
Becky Dickman
Kim Gibson-Leonard
Connie Moeggenborg
Colleen Schuldt
Mary Lehnert

County Executive Director
Bob Thompson

Farm Loan Manager
Jerry Spickerman

Farm Loan Officer
Betty Garrett

Farm Loan Officer Trainee
Teresa Stewart

Dates to Remember

June 15 – Deadline to submit forms CCC-927/928 to IRS

June 30 – Deadline to report fall-seeded small grains

July 5 – Office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 15
– Deadline to report spring-seeded crops

– Deadline to report CRP acreage.

- Deadline to report 2009 NAP production.

August 1 – Deadline to request Farm changes for 2010

Ongoing
– Farm Storage Facility Loans
– Continuous CRP & CREP

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available at great rates and terms! June interest rates are 3.00% to 3.875% depending on the term of the loan. Loan terms range from 7 years to 12 years depending on the amount financed.

www.fsa.usda.gov.



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office.

Commodity Loans

Isabella County Producers are reminded that commodity loans are available for 2010 wheat, oats, corn, barley, and soybeans at the following loan rates.

Corn	1.81
Soybeans	4.92
Red Wheat	1.68
White Wheat	2.00
Oats	1.38
Barley	1.82

Crop Reporting

All cropland acres must be reported to FSA to receive benefits for the following programs:

- ✓ Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP);
- ✓ Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE);
- ✓ Marketing assistance loans, including LDP's;
- ✓ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);
- ✓ Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by:

- **June 30, 2010** for fall seeded small grain crops;
- **July 15, 2010** for spring seeded crops and CRP

Signature Requirements

Spouses may sign all program documents on behalf of each other without having a power of attorney on file.

If for some reason you do not want your spouse to sign program documents on your behalf, we must be notified in writing.

Exception: Commodity Loans - both spouses must sign for commodity loans, marketing authorizations and lock-in repayment rates unless a power of attorney is on file.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP producers are reminded to report their 2009 production to the FSA Office for APH purposes no later than July 15, 2010.

REMINDER, if you experience any conditions that may result in a loss to any crop covered under NAP you must contact the office within 15 days of the event.



Nominations for County Committee Open June 15

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). They help in the delivery of FSA farm programs at a local level, as well as work to make FSA farm programs serve the needs of local producers.

Since County Committee elections happen once a year, here is a refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA elects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace and/or elect the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Isabella County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA #3, which includes Vernon, Wise, Isabella, Denver, and Chippewa Townships. This position is currently held by William M. Brewer.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA County Committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area #3 will be accepted from June 15, 2010, through August 2, 2010.

Producers who are of legal voting age and are eligible to vote in LAA #3 and who participate and/or cooperate in FSA programs, may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers may nominate candidates. All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2, or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> .

Beginning Farmer Loan Programs for Real Estate Purchases

Farm Service Agency offers several alternatives for beginning farmers who wish to finance real estate purchases. To qualify as an eligible beginning farmer, an applicant must have participated in management of a farm operation for at least 3 years, but must not have farmed independently for more than 10 years. He/she must not own acreage totaling more than 30% of the median size farm in the county of operation (in Isabella, cannot exceed 23.4 acres) at the time of loan closing. Other eligibility criteria and loan dollar limits also apply.

Interest rates and terms vary by program and the specific needs of the applicant. Presently, interest rates for real estate financing are between 1.5 – 5.125%, fixed. Loan terms are 20-40 years, also depending on the program utilized. Funding is limited but summer to fall is generally the best time to apply, to obtain funding from the new federal fiscal year, which begins October 1.

Targeted funding exists for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A Socially Disadvantaged Applicant is an individual who falls into the following groups: women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Other FSA Farm Loan Programs are also available. For more information on the above or other Farm Loan Programs, please contact Jerry Spickerman, Farm Loan Manager, or Betty Garrett, Farm Loan Officer.

FSA-669A (03-24-10) **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		<i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
	<input type="checkbox"/> White	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

Isabella County FSA Office
5979 E Broadway Rd
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT #19

This form is available electronically.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Bob Thompson at 989-772-5927, ext. 2