



Isabella County News

August 2010

Issue No. 2

Isabella County FSA USDA Service Center

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989-773-0480 (fax)

Web Sites

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

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

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James D. Judge, Jr., V. Chair.
Joyce R. Conners, Member
Beth Bryant, Advisor

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Bob Thompson, CED

Dates to Remember

Aug 2 – CRP Signup begins.

Aug 27 – CRP Signup ends.

Sep 1 – Last day to submit
ACRE production for 2009 crop

Sep 6 – Labor Day – closed.

Sep 30 – Last day to request
NAP Coverage for 2011 hay
and other fall seeded (uninsur-
able) crops.

Oct 1 – 2011 crop DCP/ACRE
Signup begins

CRP Signup Underway

Bids to enroll in the 39th general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) may now be accepted as of August 2, 2010. The deadline to submit bids for potential 10 or 15 year general CRP contracts is **August 27, 2010**. This program is voluntary, but competitive, and is available to all agricultural landowners and/or producers. CRP encourages environmental practices while taking the land out of production for the entire contracted period. To be eligible the land offered be cropland which was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in at least 4 of 6 years from 2002 to 2007.

If accepted into the program, participants get an annual payment based on the number of acres in the contract; the type of soils involved and the conservation cover/practice installed. Cost-share is also available for **up to 50%** of the cost to install the practice.

To be eligible for CRP, the participant must have owned or operated the land for up to 12 months prior to the close of signup (a copy of the deed, land contract or long term lease will be required).

CREP Still Available

Landowners and/or producers still have an opportunity to enroll into the CREP, which is a continuous signup for highly sensitive soils. Installation of certain specific practices such as windbreaks, wetland restorations, and filter strips not only earn higher annual payments on accepted acreage but other cash incentives.

Commodity Loans

Isabella County producers are reminded that commodity loans are available for 2010 wheat, oats, corn, barley, and soybeans.

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

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm Ownership or Farm Operating Loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. **Guaranteed Loans** can reach a maximum indebtedness level of \$1,094,000. **Emergency Loans** are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by either a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. **Rural Youth Loans, Socially Disadvantaged Loans, and Beginning Farmer Loans** are also available.

For detailed information on available loan programs and eligibility requirements, please call the FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2010

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|---|-------|
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 2.500 |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 4.625 |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.000 |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500 |
| Emergency Loans (Actual Loss) | 3.750 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 yr ** | 2.750 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans 10yr ** | 3.250 |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 yr** | 3.500 |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 1.375 |

** July Rates



Program Announcements – Deadlines

FSA is not immune to the pressures of drastically reduced budgets especially as it relates to communication with farmers. For the foreseeable future, local county FSA newsletters will be published sporadically at best and should NOT be relied upon as a single source for general FSA program information or for specific FSA program deadlines.

FSA will, however, continue the long standing practice of timely issuing press releases and other materials to local media outlets for publication or broadcast, and, on state and national levels, maintain public websites with pertinent up-to-the-minute FSA information. These websites are: www.fsa.usda.gov/mi and www.fsa.usda.gov

In a related effort to enhance communication, we encourage those with email addresses to share them with us, if they would like, so we can build a data base to allow for potential transmission of information through that medium.

Crop Reporting

All cropland acres **must** be reported to FSA to receive benefits for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (**DCP**); Acreage Crop Revenue Election (**ACRE**); Marketing Assistance Loans, including potential LDP's; Non-insured Assistance Program (**NAP**); Conservation Reserve Program (**CRP**) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (**CREP**). Crop and land use reports must account for all cropland or contract acreage on an FSA farm, whether idle or planted. **Annual payments cannot be issued until a proper crop and land use report is on file.** Even though the deadline to file 2010 reports has passed (it was June 30th for fall seeded crops and July 15th for all other crops and land uses) late-filed reports may still be accepted if a processing fee of \$46.00 plus an hourly charge for FSA personnel to verify the accuracy of the report in the field is paid for each FSA farm or CRP contract involved.

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 such accommodations are required, please contact Bob Thompson at (989) 772-5927 ext. 2