



# Jackson County News

June 2010

Issue No. 01

**Jackson County FSA  
USDA Service Center**  
211 West Ganson Street  
Jackson, MI 49201  
517-789-7716 ext. 2  
517-789-7886 ( 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

Gaylord Lincoln, Chairperson  
Thomas Zenz, Vice-Chair  
Doug Teller, Member  
Jospeh Luellen, Advisor

### Staff

Rhonda Sauber, PT  
Carolyn Crenshaw, PT  
Susan Gray, PT  
Amy Duxtader, PT  
John Hancock, Field Asst.  
Russell LaFollette FLM  
Tamela Smith CED

### 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 all crops except fall-seeded small grain  
**Aug 1** – Last day to request a farm combination or division  
**Continues** – Farm Storage Facility Loans  
**Continues** – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE and Grassland Reserve Program



## Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres

DCP 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.

## Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Internal Revenue Service* to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are **not** issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

**Participants in programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits.** These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>

## Tree Assistance Program

Orchardists and nursery tree growers can begin applying for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. TAP provides benefits to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The deadline to apply for losses that occurred in 2008, 2009 and January 1 through May 8, 2010 is July 6, 2010. If you suffer losses May 8, 2010 to September 30, 2011 you must file an application and supporting documentation within 90 days from the later of the disaster event or the date when the loss of trees, bushes or vines is apparent. Contact your local FSA Office for more information or on FSA’s website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/tap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tap)

## NAP Records

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 production records as soon as harvest is complete. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year’s final acreage reporting date.

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters 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. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer 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.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2010 for farms enrolled in specific programs. However, since this date falls on a Sunday, applications for recons will be accepted on Monday August 2, 2010.

## Reporting ACRE Production

Beginning with 2009 crop production, producers with farms participating in ACRE must annually report production by July 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility.

## **Nominations for County Committee Open June 15**

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of 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 contributes 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 the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Jackson County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2, which includes the townships of Springport, Tompkins, Rives, Parma Sandstone and Blackman This position is currently held by Gaylord (Butch) Lincoln. Due to term limits this will be Gaylord Lincoln's last year to serve on the Jackson County Committee.

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

Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 2 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age, 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.

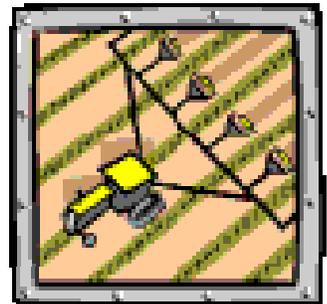
To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2, or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

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>.

## **Crop Reporting Time Fast Approaching**

The annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland acres on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the following programs:

- **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program(DCP);**
- **Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE);**
- **Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments;**
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);**
- **Non-insured Crop Disaster 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 all crops, except fall seeded small grains.**

**Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Failed Acreage:** Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

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)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
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.		5. COUNTY Jackson	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		6. LAA 2	7. STATE Michigan
3B. DATE		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>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
		8B. DATE	
<b>9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>			

**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.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<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: LAA 2: Springport, Tompkins, Rives, Parma, Sandstone and Blackman Townships
    - 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.**

### **Foreign Landowners Reporting Requirement -**

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 within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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, audiotope, 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 Tamela Smith at 517-789-7716, ext. 2**