



Lapeer/Oakland County News

Lapeer County
USDA Service Center

Lapeer/Oakland County
FSA

1739 N Saginaw St
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-664-0895 (phone)
810664-8254 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Committee

Jerry Cooper
Barbara Knust
Mary Barber
Dennis Fogler
Terry Losh

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the month

Staff

Andrew Calcaterra CED
Phil Sweeny FLM
Marlene Chesney FPPT
Diane Koehler FPPT
Susan Swosinski FLPT
Tara Eldridge FPPT
Lloyd (Doc) Russell, Field

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, of each year. The June 1, deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

For 2009 the deadline to enroll into DCP, electing and enrolling in the ACRE Program. And adding pulse crop base acres have been extended to AUGUST 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as requested. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

DCP *Continued:*

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin April 27, 2009. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.



CREP, SAFE & Continuous CRP Available

At this time USDA has no general sign-ups 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 (CCRP) are still eligible for enrollment.

These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental and financial benefits to select areas.



Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is, and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.



Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold 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.

FSA Down-payment Program

FSA has a special loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing farm property. Retiring farmers may use this program to help transfer their land to future generations.

To qualify, the applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price. This direct loan portion has a maximum loan amount of \$225,000. The loan has a very low fixed interest rate with a 20-year repayment.

FSA Farm Loan Programs: Michigan's Lender of First Opportunity.

FSA offers Michigan's farm families access to affordable credit through a wide variety of lending opportunities. Our seasoned and knowledgeable staff specializes in tailoring our loan products to meet the needs of your operation. Beyond simple access to agricultural financing, FSA are industry leaders in providing supervised credit.

We serve a variety of Michigan's agricultural producers including individuals and entities wanting to start farming, those wanting to continue or change their operations, women and minorities who want to start or continue farming, and youth wanting to build their own income producing agricultural projects. FSA offers a wide spectrum of lending options that can be tailored to an individual's situation. We can make direct fixed rate farm ownership loans (FO) and fixed rate farm operating loans (OL) in amounts up to \$300,000. We can also work with the borrower's local agricultural lender to guarantee commercial credit for both operating and ownership loans of up to \$1,094,000. In general, farm ownership funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, erect or improve buildings, implement soil and water conservation measures, and pay closing costs. Guaranteed FO funds may also be used to refinance debt. Operating loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses.

The funds also may be used for closing costs, and to reorganize and refinance certain debt.

Every situation is different. Contact your local FSA Service Center to speak to a local loan officer. Local FSA offices are listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture or Farm Service A

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

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.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster.

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. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact Andrew Calcaterra at (810) 664-0895, by phone or in person.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP 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.

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

Dairy Prices Trigger MILC Payments

Due to low milk prices FSA will be making payments in April to producers through the FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract, or MILC, program. The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the MILC program, most notably the addition of a dairy feed ration cost adjustment in addition to changes to the payment rate and modifications to the per-operation poundage limit, depending on when the milk is produced.

FSA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted for feed costs. The monthly Boston price is posted online at: http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_mainnew.htm#Advance. FSA determines the per hundredweight payment rate for the applicable month by subtracting the Boston Class I price for that month from the \$16.94 MILC payment trigger price, and multiplying the difference by 45 percent. The payment factor of 45 percent will decline to 34 percent on September 1, 2012.

FSA issues payments not later than 60 calendar days after FSA receives production evidence for the applicable month or the entire month's National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost is posted for the applicable month, whichever is later.

FSA makes payments on up to the maximum eligible pounds of milk produced and marketed by each operation per fiscal year. The annual maximum eligible pound limit per dairy operation is 2,985,000 pounds per fiscal year. The amount drops to 2.4 million pounds per fiscal year on September, 1, 2012.

MILC participants must select a month for which FSA will begin issuing payments for each fiscal year. Starting with the dairy operation's selected month, FSA will issue MILC payments based on that month's milk production and the milk production for each consecutive month thereafter with the effective payment rate until the operation reaches the production cap or the fiscal year ends.

The 2008 Farm Bill also excludes producers whose non-farm average adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$500,000 from receiving MILC payments. Producers will have to sign an AGI statement when signing up for the program. More information about the MILC program can be found on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Thinking of Tiling or Clearing land?

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules**. Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026. Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits. **CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE**-Highly erodible land (HEL) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan deficiency payments, farm loan program, crop insurance and many other USDA programs. Farms with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements spelled out in a conservation plan or system. Contact NRCS at 810-664-0895, ext. 3.

GIS

As part of a decade long program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment at more than 2,500 field service centers through out the country.

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 for ALL CROPS COVER 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.

GIS (continued)

Transitioning to the GIS environment has made good business sense for FSA for a variety of reasons. For one, CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of current ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). For years, FSA had been using hard copy maps that were 10 years old or more. USDA Service Centers use NAIP in order to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.

Second, using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. In conjunction with yearly updated high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

Dates to Remember	
May 25 th	Office closed for the Observance for Memorial Day
June 30 th	Last day to report fall seeded crop
July 15 th	Last day to report all other crops.
August 14 th	Last day to signup for DCP and ACRE
Continues	CRP- SAFE
Continues	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi



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.