



# Lapeer/Oakland County News



## Lapeer USDA Service Center

1739 N Saginaw St  
Lapeer, MI 48446-7612  
(810) 664-0895, Ext. 2  
FAX: (810) 664-8254  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Jerry Cooper  
Dennis Fogler  
Barbra Knust  
Terry Losh  
Tom Valentine

### Advisor

Alfonso Perez

County Committee meets  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

### County Staff

Marlene Chesney  
Tara Eldridge  
Diane Koehler  
Lloyd “Doc” Russell

### Farm Loan Staff

Larry Sheridan  
Susan Swosinski

### County Executive Director

Andrew Calcaterra

## County Committee Election Results

- Tom Valentine was elected to the Lapeer/Oakland County Committee as a regular member from LAA #1.

Local Administrative Area #3 in the townships of; Goodland, Imlay, Hadley, Metamora, Dryden and Almont will hold elections in calendar year 2010.

Local Administrative Area #4 in the townships of; Holly, Groveland, Rose, Springfield, Highland, White Lake, Commerce, Lyon, Novi and Milford will hold elections in calendar year 2010

## FAX DOCUMENTS

REMINDER – Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of information provided to USDA-FSA through FAX or electronic transmission. USDA is not responsible for any transmission failures or any other problems that prevent the successful or timely receipt of FAX's and electronic transmissions.

SERVICE CENTERS WILL NOT ACCEPT or approve any form or document received through FAX or electronic device if the date and time of the FAX cannot be verified.

Please verify your FAX machine time and date to ensure compliance with this requirement.

## BANK CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be direct deposited into your bank account. Please notify this office of any bank changes to ensure deposits are not delayed.

## SURE PROGRAM UPDATE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in crop years 2008 through 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all insurable crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) through the Farm Service Agency. Currently, FSA has received information on the 2008 SURE program. Please stop by the FSA Office to inquire about the eligibility of the 2008 SURE program. Possible qualifications for this program are:

- At least one crop of economic significance suffered a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster.
- All crops (both insurable and non-insurable) of economic significance were insured either by crop insurance or FSA.
- A crop insurance indemnity was received on a crop of economic significance in 2008.

Contact FSA for additional details.

## FARM CHANGES

All farm changes shall be reported to this office prior to enrollment but not later than August 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure farm records remain accurate for farm program participation.

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

These loans are available at great rates and terms. Revised provisions allow for greater flexibility in both value and terms of the loan agreement. For additional details contact your local FSA office.



## **2010 DCP Sign-up**



### **DCP INFORMATION**

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through the **JUNE 1, 2010 DEADLINE**. We have been informed that there will be no extensions granted beyond the deadline date established, therefore please contact the FSA Office at your earliest convenience to set up an appointment to timely enroll.

**IMPORTANT CASH LEASE** agreement changes.....

Beginning in 2010, cash lease agreements must include at a minimum:

1. Signature dates
2. Length of Lease (If multiple year lease, list number of years)
3. Must have land owner and operators names printed and signatures.
4. Type of lease (Cash lease, barter lease and barter terms)

### **THE OPTIONAL ACRE PROGRAM**

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. **The June 1, 2010 signup deadline** is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late filed applications.

The decision to enroll into the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

For additional information on the ACRE program, please contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

## **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME PROVISIONS**

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 participating in farm programs. Written consent will be **REQUIRED** for 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 CCC 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<sup>th</sup> to avoid interruption of program benefits**. These forms may be obtained from your local FSA Office or online at:

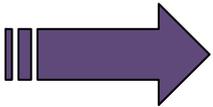
<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/maiuservlet>

## **PREVENTED PLANTING**

*Definition* - Failure to plant the insured crop by the final planting date designated in the Special Provisions for the insured crop in the county. You must have been prevented from planting the insured crop due to an insured cause of loss that is general in the surrounding area and that prevents other producers from planting acreage with similar characteristics.

*Reporting*- If you wish to receive credit for failed and/or prevented planting crops, you are required to report before destroying the failed crop or 15 days from final planting date.

## **2010 ACRE ENROLLMENT**



## **ACTIVELY ENGAGED**

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be “actively engaged” in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that together qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation.
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members cannot exceed \$40,000.

## **SODBUSTER/SWAMPBUSTER PROVISIONS**

Thinking of Tiling or Clearing Land? Most USDA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by clearing trees from woodlots and fence rows, 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 conservation plans. Contact NRCS at 810-664-0895 ext. 3

## **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during the crop year and four succeeding crop years for DCP payments, ACRE payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, farm storage facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance payments or SURE program payments.

Program participants convicted of the distribution of a controlled substance shall be ineligible for all benefits;

- For up to 5 years after the first conviction
- For up to 10 years after the second conviction
- Permanently for a third conviction

## **CREP, SAFE & CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE**

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practice, and Continuous CRP are eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas. For additional information or clarification, please contact this office.

**WOOL AND  
 MOHAIR  
 PRODUCERS**

Form CCC-633EZ must be filed with the FSA Office before beneficial interest is lost in the shorn wool, mohair and/or un-shorn pelts from lambs slaughtered to receive Loan Deficiency Payments. **The final loan availability date is January 31<sup>st</sup>** if page 1 is signed. Payment rates are updated weekly.

**LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER  
 OR RANCHER**

If your direct or indirect gross farm sales were less than \$100,000 for both of the last 2 years and your total household income is at or below the poverty level for a family of 4 in both of the previous 2 years, you may qualify as a limited resource producer. For more information see the USDA Tool at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or call the office for an appointment. The 2008 Farm Bill addresses the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource farmers and ranchers. It offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services. Enhancements include streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance, and improved programs and services.

Dates to Remember	
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Office closed for the observance of Memorial Day
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	DCP enrollment deadline
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	ACRE enrollment deadline
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	CCC-927/928 deadline
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fall seeded small grain crop certification deadline
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Office closed for the observance of Independence Day
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Certification deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://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.