



January 29, 2009

Issue #2



LENAWEE County News

Lenawee County
USDA Service Center

Lenawee County FSA
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Adrian MI 49221
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Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Alan Gould
Michael Feight
Jeffrey Ehlert

Staff:
Constance Reid Guffey
County Executive Director

Phone Extension 114

Farm Program Section:
Jim Bills 104
Connie Rathbun 108
Debra Shiels 105
Ann Squires 100
Barbara Wagner 107
Beth Wagner 106

Farm Loan Section:
Michael Jordon
Farm Loan Manager

Phone Extension 110

Rebecca Deline 111
Judy Kellie 113
Susan Lerch 112
Katie Gust 103



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS:

Alan Gould has been re-elected to the County Committee. Alternates are Dean Crafts and Jack Merillat. Thank you to all who participated in the election process.

At the first meeting of the year held on January 22, 2009, Alan Gould was selected as Chairperson, Michael Feight as Vice Chairperson and Jeffrey Ehlert as Regular Member.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) CLOSES FEB 27TH:

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. If you had a loss on a crop you covered by multi-peril crop insurance, but you did not apply for an indemnity, bring in your production evidence and we will calculate any benefit due under the CDP program. The highest loss year will be paid. Call for an appointment with Beth Wagner before the 27th of February.

AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAM (ACRE):

ACRE is an option instead of DCP counter-cyclical payments. ACRE protects against crop revenue shortfall resulting from price and/or production declines at state and farm level. It is "safety net" protection on base crops that are planted, not on the farm's crop acreage bases. Come to a meeting!

FARM BILL INFORMATION MEETINGS

This Farm Bill takes us through fiscal year 2012. There are some big changes in payment eligibility rules, forms, and the options for producers with crop acreage bases. Some options are very complicated. Please attend several meetings to be well informed on important changes and options available.

Monday, February 23rd 6 – 9 pm
River Raisin Room
Human Services Building
1040 S Winter Street, Adrian

Thursday, March 5th 2:30 – 5:30 pm
River Raisin Room
Human Services Building
1040 S Winter Street, Adrian

We will also be having small group sessions on this information weekly, beginning on 2/10/09. The material will be updated as procedure arrives on programs and requirements. Space will be limited to 10 producers. Please call to register for a small group session in our conference room.

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATION RULES:

For 2009 payment eligibility and adjusted gross income (AGI) rules are different. Payments are limited by direct attribution to tax ID numbers. We will credit individuals and entities with both the amount of payments they receive directly or indirectly by holding an interest in an entity.



**NEW PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY FORMS
REQUIRED ARE:**

CCC-902 FARM OPERATING PLAN

**CCC-926 AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS
INCOME (AGI) CERTIFICATION**

If an individual or entity has:

- nonfarm average AGI greater than \$500,000, the individual or entity is not eligible for DCP, price support, and disaster assistance benefits
- farm AGI greater than \$750,000, the individual or entity is not eligible for direct payments under DCP.



For conservation programs, if the individual or entity has total AGI greater than \$1 million, the individual or entity is not eligible unless 66.66 percent is derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations.

Those with nonfarm AGI greater than \$1 million, are not eligible for conservation program benefits.

The definition of average AGI, derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations, has been expanded. We have worksheets that producers may use to assist them in calculating their average adjusted gross income.

MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACTS:

Attention milk producers! You should have received a letter explaining this program. Contact us soon for details or to sign a contract. MILC payments are issued monthly to eligible producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below the baseline of \$16.94 per cwt.



**DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL
PAYMENT SIGNUP UNDERWAY:**

Signup is open for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and will continue until June 1, 2009.

There are no provisions for enrolling late. FSA computes DCP payments using crop base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each covered commodity associated with the farm. Advance direct payments are issued as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, national average market price and loan rate).

The percentage of base acres used to calculate Direct Payments is 83.3% for 2009-2011 and 85% for 2012. The percentage of base acres used to calculate Counter-Cyclical (CC) Payments is 85% through 2012. Call for an appointment. Make sure you have rental agreements in order and have reported all changes in land you own or operate. Changes in ownership of the land you rent must be reported timely or that will delay signup. DCP contracts cannot be approved on rented land unless a lease or rental agreement is provided that shows the land is cash rented for 2009; the land owner signs the contract; or a form CCC-510 Cash Rental Certification is signed. This option cannot be used on a farm unless the producer provided a lease for 2008 and enrolled in DCP in 2008.

**NOTE THAT YOU CAN
ENROLL IN DCP AND
THEN SWITCH TO THE
NEW ACRE OPTION
BEFORE JUNE 1, 2009.**



SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE) PROGRAM:

This program replaces past disaster programs for crops. Payments are earned based on revenue loss. To be eligible, producers are required to have crop insurance or non-insured crop assistance (NAP) coverage on all crops, on all farms in the nation. An exception is a crop which is not expected to contribute at least 5% of the farm's income (Nationwide).

For Lenawee County, crop insurance may be purchased by private agents on the following crops: Wheat, corn, seed corn, soybeans, oats, sugar beets, dry beans, apples, potatoes and processing tomatoes.

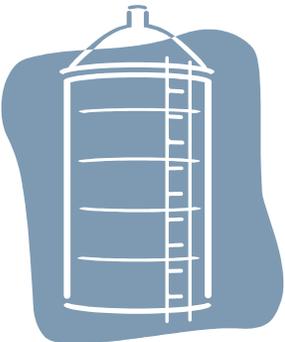
SEE US ABOUT COVERING ANY OTHER CROP UNDER NAP. Several crops have fall closing dates such as wheat and hay. Many other crops have a closing date of March 15th. Don't miss this deadline! Call an agent today.



Call us for specifics on NAP and we will mail the information to you. NAP fees are: \$250 per crop; up to \$750 per county and \$1,875 per producer for all counties

SURE Program payments equate to 60% of the difference between the disaster assistance guarantee and total farm revenue.

Attend a meeting to learn more. Keep eligible by covering your crops with multi-peril crop insurance or NAP before the deadline.



COMMODITY LOANS AND FACILITY LOANS ARE AVAILABLE!

INTEREST RATES ARE LOW!

NON-INSURABLE CROP LOSS COVERAGE DETAILS:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available for many non-insurable crops through March 15th. NAP provides coverage similar to that available on insurable crops.

Eligible producers are those who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50% of expected production, based on approved yields and reported acreage. See us for NAP coverage details soon. Crops and varieties covered must be on the CCC-471 application and the fee must be paid by that date. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the service fees. Conservation compliance requirements must be followed.

NAP coverage begins the later of 30 calendar days after the application is filed; or the date the crop is planted (not to exceed the final planting date).

NAP coverage ends the earlier of the date harvest is complete; the normal harvest date; abandonment of the crop or the total destruction of the crop.

Acreage reports must be filed by July 15, 2009 and show type, location, planting date, number of acres, etc. ***Production records provided must represent a true and complete record for the unit.***

Notice of loss must be made within 15 days of weather damage or of the damage being apparent. For prevented planting, it is 15 days from the final planting date set for the crop. ***Crop evidence must not be destroyed prior to filing a Notice of Loss and requesting an appraisal of the crop.***

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MADE UPON REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, VISION IMPAIRMENT, OR HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

IF ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE CALL CONSTANCE REID GUFFEY AT: (517)263-7400.

HAVE A COMMODITY LOAN?

Always take the time to view the condition of your loan grain each month. Please do not forget that grain under loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a loan violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties. Loans are subject to spot checks. Shortages must be repaid with principal, plus interest, and additional monetary penalties. The loss of future loan eligibility may apply.

Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information. A quick phone call can authorize movement

Dates to Remember	
02/27/09	05-07 Crop Disaster Deadline
02/11/09	CRP SAFE Meeting 6-8 pm
02/23/09	Farm Bill Info. Meeting 6-9 pm
03/05/09	Farm Bill Info. Meeting 2:30-5:30 pm
03/15/09	Crop Insurance Deadline
03/15/09	Non-insured Assistance Deadline. Stay eligible for SURE!
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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