



Lenawee County News

Lenawee County
USDA Service Center

Lenawee County FSA
1100 Sutton RD
Adrian MI 49221
517-263-7400(phone)
517-265-9121(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Alan Gould
Michael Feight
Dale Terry

COC Advisor
Bonnie Hunt

County Committee meets
First Wednesday 8:30 am

Staff
Constance Reid Guffey
County Executive Director
114

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

Farm Loan Section:
Michael Jordan
Farm Loan Manager 110
Brenda Andrews 113
Rebecca Deline 111
Susan Lerch 112



Crop Reporting Deadlines 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);**
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**
- **All Disaster Assistance Programs, including Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE). Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before the disposition or destruction of the crop.**
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Payments. For NAP purposes producers are required to file an acreage report by the extended acreage reporting date but no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest if that is earlier.**

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 CRP Acres and crops, except fall seeded small grains.

Farm numbers with acreage not timely reported will be assessed a late-filing fee in order to retain program benefits.

Prevented planting soybean applications are due by June 30th and must be accompanied by receipts supporting the intent to plant all acres.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (SURE) PROGRAM

This program replaces past disaster programs for crops. Payments are earned when there is a revenue loss on all of a producer's farms combined.

Lenawee County had a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008, therefore, producers who obtained insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance are eligible to apply for SURE for 2008.



Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to those who share in the risk of producing an eligible commodity.

To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the commodity. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

FSA offers loans on honey, wool and mohair, an assortment of grains, and other approved agricultural commodities.

Violating provisions of a loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

2010 Wheat loan rates:
Soft Red \$1.85
White \$2.08

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 that is not economically significant (one which is not expected to contribute at least 5% of the farm's income.)

We are currently taking applications. If you had an insurance indemnity in 2008, you should contact us soon. A revenue loss may qualify for a SURE payment. We already have the RMA data for production losses you have reported to your agent. For your appointment, please bring in production figures for any crops for which you did not file for a production loss. You may certify to the production, but you must maintain records that are verifiable or reliable to justify the figures you certify. Spot checks will be done. Multi-county producers may start the process in any county in which they certified crops. All counties involved will have action by their County Committees and then the information will be finalized by one county.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for most crops was March 15, 2010. **Don't miss the deadline to cover wheat, small grains, fall speltz, forage crops, fruits, berries, and asparagus by the fall 2010 deadlines.**

To be eligible for NAP coverage on a crop, producers must file a CCC-471 with required signatures and pay the applicable service fee by the deadline for the crop.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for NAP benefits:

Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" form CCC-576 within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to excess moisture, drought, hail, etc.

Production Reporting: Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield each year. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. The records need to show crop disposition. It is recommended producers submit production records soon after harvest. *All production records for 2009 must be submitted by the 2010 acreage report date for the crop. The final acreage reporting date for NAP crops is July 15, 2010.*

Production Reporting Average Crop Revenue (ACRE)

ACRE participants are required to either accept the county average farm benchmark yield or certify actual yields. Forms were mailed to assist in completing the yield certification requirements for each ACRE farm and each covered commodity. **Forms must be signed and returned by July 15, 2010.** Production evidence that may be used to support certified yields include:

- Crop Insurance loss records
- Sales records (buyer specific)
- Crop Insurance APH data base records
- Farm stored production records

Acres that are reported as planted or approved prevented planted on farms in the ACRE program will need production reported by July 15th of the next year.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Cover maintenance for CRP is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All activity such as mowing, burning, and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife. In Michigan this is after August 1 and before August 20. Call the office if you have questions.

Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Pro- gram 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

Nomination Period for County Committee Open

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). They help in the delivery of FSA farm programs at the local level, as well as work to make FSA farm programs serve the needs of local producers.

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. Lenawee County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA I, which includes Woodstock, Cambridge, Franklin, Clinton, Tecumseh, Macon, Rome and Adrian Townships. This position is currently held by Michael Feight.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area I will be accepted through August 2, 2010. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA I 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. 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. Nomination form, FSA-669A, and more information is available at the county office or online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

CRP Land: Hope for beginning and minority farmers

Landowners who are willing to sell or lease Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning and minority farmers can get cash with the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). Signup for the new program, which began May 17, 2010, works this way: Contract Holders of land under CRP can get two extra years of CRP payments from the USDA if they agree to sell or lease the acreage under a long-term contract to a beginning or minority farmer, provided the transition is not to a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or minority farmer make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or minority farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

The program was created by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill in a bid to help beginning and minority farmers get over one of the biggest hurdles they face – finding affordable land. To learn more about program, producers should visit the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or web site.

Foreign Buyers Notification

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. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. Real estate professionals are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements

**INTERESTED IN
FSA NEWS BY
EMAIL?**

If you would like to be on a distribution list and receive emails about deadlines and new program information, please contact me at: constance.guffey@mi.usda.gov

Check the Soil Conservation District website for USDA News from FSA and NRCS!
www.lenaweeconservationdistrict.org

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) RULES

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 annually certify their eligibility to receive benefits** by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainserver/vlet>

Interest Rates for June 2010	
7 yr. Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.000%
10 yr. Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
12 yr. Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.875%
Commodity Loans	1.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available at great rates and terms! For more information please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

**ANN SQUIRES HAS RETIRED,
AND WE WISH HER THE BEST!
THANK YOU ANN, FOR YOUR
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE,
HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT.**

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.