



Lenawee County FSA

January 2012

Lenawee County FSA
1100 Sutton RD
Adrian MI 49221

517-263-740 phone
517-265-9121 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

Staff

Constance Reid Guffey,
County Executive Director
Extension 114

Michael Jordon,
Farm Loan Manager
Extension 110

Rebecca Deline, Farm
Loan Officer 111

Program Technicians:

Brenda Andrews 113
Jodie Johnson 112
Debra Shiels 105
Barbara Wagner 107
Beth Wagner 106

County Committee

Michael Feight
Eugenie Hillard
Dale Terry

COC Advisor

Bonnie Shepherd

Electronic Newsletters

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Interested producers may subscribe to receive e-mail updates by going to the USDA GovDelivery sign-up page found at the following web address: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

Also, check out Michigan's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi>

NAP Deadline

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for most spring crops is March 15th. The application and service fee must be filed by the deadline. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs, such as Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), producers must purchase NAP coverage on economically significant crops. Contact us for details.

County Committee Elections

The new County Committee member, serving local area II, is Eugenie Hillard of Jasper.

First Alternate: Scott Perryman

Second Alternate: Anna Simpkins

Congratulations and thank you!

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program For 2010

Payments are earned when there is a revenue loss on all of a producer's farms combined. Producers who obtained at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance should contact us. A crop of economic significance is one that contributes at least 5 percent of the expected revenue. You must have suffered a 10 percent revenue loss on at least one crop of economic significance in order to be eligible for the SURE program.

The SURE guarantee for the farm is 90% of the total expected farm revenue. SURE payments will be 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee for the farm and the total farm revenue for the farm. The application deadline is June 1, 2012

Annual Payment Limitation Notice

Payment limitations per person for 2012 have not changed. They are:

- \$40,000 for Direct Payments (DCP);
- \$65,000 for Counter Cyclical Payments (DCP) and ACRE payments;
- \$50,000 for CRP;
- No limits for market gains and LDP's;
- \$100,000 for Disaster Assistance Programs;
- \$100,000 for NAP.

Know Your Land –Keep FSA Informed

To ensure farmers retain eligibility for USDA benefits, it is important that they know whether the land has had a Highly Erodible Land (HEL) or wetland determination made by NRCS. Crops planted on HEL must be in accordance with a conservation plan or acceptable conservation system. Land that is classified as a wet area and was manipulated after December 23, 1985, cannot be planted to agricultural commodities. Planting areas that were manipulated after this date by someone other than the operator does not excuse the farm operator from a violation if they plant the converted area. Farmers are advised to acquire an official wetland determination from NRCS before planting if there is any doubt. Once a crop is planted in violation of the HEL or wetland requirements, it is too late. All USDA benefits are at stake. Let us help by keeping your records accurate. Let us know right away if you rent or purchase new land.

2012 DCP And ACRE Signup Ends June 1, 2012

Sign up for 2012 will begin January 23rd, and ends on June 1. The annual commodity programs are based on past planting history. No advance payments will be issued. FSA urges producers to call for an appointment to complete their 2012 DCP contracts as soon as possible. We will provide crop certification maps at enrollment. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Generally farm operators are eligible, as well as any farm owners sharing in the crop ownership. A farm owner who does not cash rent his land, may enroll in this program even if no crop will be planted. However, idle DCP acres must be protected from erosion and weeds must be controlled throughout the year. Contact us to schedule an appointment to enroll as soon as possible.

The alternative program, ACRE provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

Acquire your land leases for the coming year, notify us of any changes, and call soon for an appointment to enroll in either of these commodity programs. Farms cannot be enrolled unless records are accurate. Evidence must be presented to change farm ownership.

Thinking of planting fruits or vegetables in 2012? In general, producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) may not plant fruits and/or vegetables on base acres enrolled in DCP. Discuss this with us.

Farm Reconstitutions

FSA groups all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operational control take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. To be effective for the 2012 year, recons must be requested by August 1. June 1 is the enrollment deadline for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program or ACRE Program.

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm ownership is sold/transferred to two or more persons; (3) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

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 an assortment of grains, and other approved agricultural commodities. The wheat loan deadline is March 31st and the corn and soybean deadline is May 31st.

2011 Crop loan rates: Wheat \$2.24 Corn \$1.92 Soybeans \$5.03

Foreign Landowner 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. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial payment will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final payment will be made when construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>



Attention Conservation Reserve Participants

If your CRP cover was planted four or more years ago, you should be completing the Mid-Contract Management (MCM). This means taking actions to improve the CRP cover. The idea is to manage the cover and to make it more useful for wildlife such as ground nesting birds. As your CRP cover matures it may become thick with a single type of grass, or have thistle problems. The cover may benefit from light disking, grass-specific herbicides, inter-seeding with legumes or wildflowers, or prescribed burning. These activities will create the plant diversity that was once there. Conservation plans written since May of 2003 have the **requirement** for Mid-Contract Management. Producers with older contracts may request to add it to their conservation plans. The cost sharing is 50% of eligible costs up to \$50 per acre, per year, not to exceed \$100 per acre for the life of a 10 year contract, or \$125 per acre if the contract is for over 10 years. Please find the paperwork to document the MCM and apply for the cost sharing in the large envelope you received with your contract approval documents. Do the MCM and turn in your documents in advance of the deadline in the upper right of your form AD-245. We will do a reminder letter 30 days prior to the deadline. You will need to plan well before that, and be organized to get this work completed timely.

Reminder Of Other CRP Responsibilities:

Check your cover for problems and certify your CRP well before the deadline of July 15, 2012. Do any maintenance of the CRP cover, avoiding the primary nesting season (May 1 – Aug 1). Keep your CRP cover free of noxious weeds and woody vegetation. You may spot mow between August 1 and 20 (only the specific areas in need of weed or brush control). You may mow these areas only once a year and you may do that without contacting us. However, if maintenance is needed earlier in the year, to control thistles before they go to seed, for example, write to the County Committee or call FSA for permission to treat these spots. This should be done BEFORE they go to seed.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA has Emergency Loans available for farmers who suffered Production losses resulting from excessive rainfall, flooding, tornadoes, high winds or excessive heat, occurring from 2/2/11 to 7/31/11. **The deadline to apply is 5/7/12.** We are still accepting loan applications for all loan programs--Direct Operating, Direct Farm Ownership, Guarantee Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Operating. While some of these loan programs may be out of funds at this time, applications are still being processed and added to our waiting lists. For those applicants who meet the Beginning Farmer and/or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer requirements, a limited amount of targeted funding is still available. If you have any questions about any loan program, eligibility requirements, applications, or other forms, please contact the Farm Loan Section staff.

Beginning And Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.



Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Interest Rates for January 2012	
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 yr	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10 yr	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 yr	2.250%
Commodity Loans	1.125%

Alan Gould recently completed his last term on the County Committee. Connie Rathbun and Jim Bills have retired. Thanks to them for all the hard work and dedication!

Women's And Hispanic's Claim Process

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you may call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at: 1- 888-508-4429 or go to the following website: <https://farmerclaims.gov>

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, audiotape, 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