



Mason, Oceana, Lake, Manistee County News

USDA Service Center

Mason, Oceana, Lake and Manistee County FSA

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www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Committee

John LaPointe, Chairperson
Chuck Schade, Vice-Chair
Curtiss Berndt, Member
James Bush, Member
Ed Kolbe Jr., Member
Shirley MacKenzie, Advisor

Staff

Debbie Schulz, PT
Beth Saxton, PT
Rick Dean, FLM
Larry Cleary, FLM (Manistee)
Kathi Lerg, CED



Assistance for Asparagus Producers - Sign-up Ends Sept 23

Asparagus producers and those who shared in the risk of production for those asparagus in 2009 may now be eligible for assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program. The deadline for application is September 23, 2010. As authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, the TAA Program offers free technical training and compensation for producers of asparagus now affected by foreign competition. TAA provides up to \$4,000 for development of an initial business plan and \$8,000 for development of a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers must provide proof of production in 2009 and one year prior and are subject to AGI eligibility limits. Contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

Conservation Compliance Reminder

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new cropland, breaking out additional cropland, shortening an established cropping rotation, planting new crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact your local County office BEFORE modifying (tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling) any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and program eligibility.

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. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for small grains, fall mint, fall speltz and forage crops is September 30, 2010.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for 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" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.



Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.



Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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 through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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 which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and 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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, , soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup Continues

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

Deadline to Purchase NAP

Sept. 1:
Christmas Trees

Sept. 30:
Hay, Small Grains, Forage, Wheat, Rye, Barley (fall seeded crops)

Oct. 1:
Chestnuts

Nov. 20:
Asparagus, Fruit (including grapes, strawberries, raspberries, & rhubarb)

Dec. 1:
Honey & Maple Sap

March 15:
Beans, Cucumbers, Winter Squash, Sweet Corn (Spring planted crops)

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm;
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Mason, Ocean, Lake and Manistee County **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE. Signup is currently ongoing. Applications for 2008 must be received by September 30, 2010.



2011 DISASTER PROGRAMS Eligibility Requirements

These are continuous disaster programs provided by USDA:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program (*Crop disaster*)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP),
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

To be eligible to participate in the SURE and/or LFP programs for 2011, the producer must have bought crop insurance for all crops which are insurable and NAP coverage for all crops which are not insurable by crop insurance and are not economically significant. The deadline to purchase crop insurance for crop year 2011 is fast approaching for some crops such as wheat, hay, and other fall seeded crops. We encourage you to purchase NAP coverage through the FSA office as soon as possible. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for fall seeded crops such as older alfalfa and older mixed hay (not covered by insurance), rye, speltz, canola, and fall planted barley is September 30, 2010. The coverage takes effect 30 days after signing up for the policy. The cost to purchase NAP for 2011 is \$250.00 per crop, maximum of \$750.00 per county, \$1875.00 per producer for all counties. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for spring seeded crops such as sugar beets, pickles, etc... is March 15, 2011. Please don't miss your opportunity to be eligible for disaster programs in 2011.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 1	Last day to submit ACRE production for 2009 crop year
Sept. 6	Labor Day, Office closed
Sept. 30	Last day to request NAP coverage for hay and other uninsurable fall seeded crops
Oct. 1	2011 DCP/ACRE signup begins
Oct. 11	Columbus Day, Office closed
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an **equal** opportunity provider and employer.