



Mecosta County News

Mecosta County USDA Service Center

Mecosta County FSA
18260 Northland Dr
Big Rapids, Mi. 49307
231-796-2659 (phone)
231-796-3607 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
Mike Hopkins Chairperson
John Orr – Vice Chairperson
Gerald Mondrella – Member
Beth Storey – Advisor

Staff
Sherry Adams-PT
Towna Aris-PT
Shelley Lobert-PT
Heather Hadder-Intermittent
Larry Sheridan-Farm Loan
Officer

Farm Loan Manager

Rick Dean

County Executive Director

Travis Murray



DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED

The 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program sign up for farms with base acres has begun. You can signup at your local USDA Service Center or online at

www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. Signup has been extended through August 14, 2009. **FSA will not accept any late-filed applications after August 14, 2009.**

****FSA farms with 10 acres base or less may now be eligible for payment Call the officeto check eligibility. This is a huge change! Also don't forget to **certify your crops timely** (June 30, 2009 fall seeded small grain crops, July 15, 2009 all other crops).*

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM IS BACK!

After a four year wait, the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is back. This is a voluntary/competitive program. The initial signup must be made by the middle of May 2009. There are 2 ways to potentially participate: permanent easements and rental contracts (10, 15, and 20 year). The current proposed rate of payment for permanent easements for Mecosta County is a onetime payment of \$1975 per acre. The Mecosta County payment for rental rate for rental contracts is an annual payment of \$10 per acre. There are no size limits as far as acreage. Grazing can occur on the land with a certified grazing plan. Haying can also occur on the GRP land (50% can be harvested with unlimited cuttings during the primary nesting season or 70% can be harvested with only one cutting during primary nesting). Cost share is also available, if needed, for restoration of grasses, fencing, etc... For land to be eligible for GRP, you must own the land (private or tribal), have mineral rights (for easements), and be

willing to keep it in grass. For more details, please call NRCS or FSA at (231) 796-2659.

SOYBEAN REFERENDUM

During May 4 through May 29, 2009, soybean producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from the local FSA county offices to participate in the National Soybean Referendum. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingpro> grams during the same time period.

Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county FSA office where the producer owns or rents land. The completed forms and supporting documentation showing they paid an assessment on soybeans from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 (example: sales receipt) must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person, no later than close of business May 29, 2009.

If the forms and documentation are returned by mail, they must be postmarked by midnight May 29, 2009 and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 5, 2009.

FARM DIVISIONS-DESIGNATION OF BASES BY LANDOWNER

The designation by landowner method of dividing crop acreage bases is done by agreement between the parent farm owner and purchaser. When requested, this method allows all parties to agree to the division of the parent farm's crop acreage bases on the resulting farms.

EXTENSION OF 2008 DISASTER PROGRAM BUY IN

If you want to buy in to the 2008 Disaster Program, sign up has been extended till May 18, 2009. The new Farm Bill has provided continuous disaster programs which are:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program (*Crop disaster*)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible to participate in the SURE for **2008**, the producer must have bought crop insurance for all crops which are insurable (economically significant) and NAP coverage for all crops (excluding pasture) which are not insurable by crop insurance and economically significant. If the producer has not bought crop insurance or NAP coverage for all crops for 2008, **the producer can still be eligible. To be eligible, the producer can purchase a “buy-in fee” through the FSA office for each insurable crop and for each non-insurable crop** (Maximum purchase of 3 “buy-in fees” for insurable crops and maximum purchase of 3 “buy-in fees” for non-insurable crops per county per producer). Each “buy-in fee” costs \$100.

The deadline extension to purchase the “buy-in fees” is May 18, 2008. **If you are not sure where you stand with eligibility and you want to make sure you are eligible, please give Program Technician Towna Aris a call at (231) 796-2659.**

Dates to Remember	
May 18 th	Last day to purchase 2008 Disaster "Buy-In"
May 25 th	Office closed for the observance of Memorial Day
May 29 th	Soybean Referendum Deadline
June 30 th	Final date to report fall seeded small grains
July 3 rd	Office closed for the observance of Independence Day
July 15 th	Final date to report all other Crops
August 14 th	Final date to enroll in DCP & ACRE
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

***** Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in meeting/event/function should contact Travis Murray at (231) 796-2659 extension 2, email: travis.murray@mi.usda.gov, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.**

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