



# Mecosta County News

## Mecosta County USDA Service Center

**Mecosta County FSA**  
18260 Northland Dr  
Big Rapids, Mi. 49307  
231-796-2659 ext.2  
(phone)  
231-796-3607 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

### Hours

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

### 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

## Don't Forget to VOTE in the County Committee Elections.

Ballots for LAA#1  
coming out in  
November.



## Higher Loans Amounts Now Available through

### Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program helps to ensure producers have adequate capacity to store their harvested production until they sell it on the open market.

The FSFL Program provides low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants must provide a down payment of 15%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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 at which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA office where the farm's records are maintained. 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, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, 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

## NEW PROGRAM

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **First Enrollment Period - August 10<sup>th</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

### INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Green Twp. Hall

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wheatland Twp. Hall

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Producers who participate in this program will enroll their entire agricultural or forestry operation (land eligible includes: cropland, grassland, improved pastureland and non-industrial private forestland) into the program. Producers who are accepted in the program will receive program payments based on the existing conservation measures they maintain and new conservation measures they agree to implement.

To apply for CSP, potential participants are required to complete a self-screening checklist to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. Producers can submit applications at their local NRCS field office. Applications submitted by producers who have completed the self-screening checklist will be ranked competitively according to national and state priority resource concerns.

CSP replaces the Conservation Security Program which was only available to producers in designated watersheds. The program will be offered to producers nationwide through continuous sign-ups. Congress capped the annual acreage enrollment at 12,769,000 acres for each fiscal year nationwide.

For information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, producers can visit their local NRCS field office or [www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html)

**2010 DISASTER PROGRAMS Eligibility Requirements**

Here 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 **2010**, 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 not economically significant. The deadline to purchase crop insurance for crop year 2010 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 hay (not covered by insurance), rye, speltz, canola, and fall planted barley is **September 30, 2009**. The coverage takes affect 30 days after signing up for the policy. The cost to purchase NAP for 2010 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, 2010. Please don't miss your opportunity to be eligible for disaster programs in 2010.

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| September 1st     | Deadline to buy NAP coverage for Christmas trees, Ornamental Nursery, Aquaculture, Turfgrass, etc... |
| September 7th     | Office closed for the observance of Labor Day  |
| September 15th    | Mecosta County Committee meeting, 9 a.m. USDA Office Big Rapids***                                   |
| September 30th    | Deadline to buy NAP coverage for hay, rye, canola, speltz, fall planted barley, etc...               |
| Continues         | Farm Operating Loans, Farm Ownership Loans, Beginning Farmer Loans, and Youth Loans                  |
| Continues         | Farm Storage Facility Loans  |
| Continues         | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program  |

Visit our Web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://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](mailto:travis.murray@mi.usda.gov), or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.**

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