



# Mecosta County News

August 2010

Issue No. 3

## Mecosta County FSA USDA Service Center

18260 Northland Dr.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231-796-2659 ext. 2  
231-796-3607 ( fax)

### Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov  
www.sc.egov.usda.gov  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Mike Hopkins, Chairperson  
John Orr Vice-Chairperson  
Jim Carmichael, Member  
Beth Storey, Advisor

### Staff

Sherry Adams, PT  
Towna Aris, PT  
Shelley Lobert, PT  
Don Foos, Field Reporter  
Rick Dean, FLM  
Travis Murray, CED

### Dates to Remember

**Aug 2** – CRP Signup begins.  
**Aug 17** – COC Meeting 9 a.m.  
**Aug 27** – CRP Signup ends.  
**Sep 1** – Last day to submit  
ACRE production for 2009 crop  
year.  
**Sep 6** – Labor Day, office  
closed.  
**Sep 30** – Last day to request  
NAP Coverage for hay and  
other fall seeded (uninsurable)  
crops.  
**Continues** – Farm Storage  
Facility Loans.  
**Continues** – Continuous Con-  
servation Reserve Program  
and Grassland Reserve Pro-  
gram



## CRP Signup Underway

Sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is now underway as of August 2. The deadline for submitting 10 or 15 year contracts is August 27, 2010. This is a competitive and voluntary program available to agricultural producers. CRP encourages environmental practices while taking the land out of production for the entire contracted period. The land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six year period 2002 to 2007.

If accepted into the program, producers get an annual payment based on the number of acres in the contract and the type of soils you have under contract. The Mecosta County average soil rental rate is \$52. However this can vary greatly. Cost share can also be provided **up to** 50% of the cost to install the practice.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for up to 12 months prior to the close of signup (you will have to provide copy of deed or long term lease as proof). For other questions, please contact Program Technician Towna Aris or CED Travis Murray. We will be glad to help producers through this process.

## Commodity Loans

Mecosta County Producers are reminded that commodity loans are available for 2010 wheat, oats, corn, barley, and soybeans.

<b>Corn</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>White Wheat</b>	<b>1.99</b>
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>4.93</b>	<b>Oats</b>	<b>1.38</b>
<b>Red Wheat</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>Barley</b>	<b>1.82</b>

## CREP Still Available

Producers and landowners in ~ the eastern 1/3 of Mecosta County still have an opportunity to enroll into CREP for filter strips, windbreaks, and wetland restorations and receive annual rental payments on those acres.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

*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 \$1,094,000. *Emergency Loans* are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. *Rural Youth Loans*, *Beginning Farmers Loans*, and *Socially Disadvantaged Loans* are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on available loan programs and eligibility requirements, please contact PT Shelley Lobert at (231) 796-2659 extension 2.

### Selected Interest Rates for August 2010

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.500
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625
Limited Resource Loans	5.000
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500
Emergency Loans (Actual Loss)	3.750
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 yr **	2.750
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10yr **	3.250
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 yr**	3.500
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375

\*\* July Rates



### Email Addresses

As our budget to mail information diminish, we are exploring other options to provide information. If you would like to share your email address with us, we greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

### **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.*

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To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (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.

**Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Travis Murray at (231) 796-2659, ext. 2**