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**Midland County  
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**Midland County Committee**  
Chairman – Scott Maxwell  
Vice Chairman – Jack Terwillegar  
Member – Jacqueline Beougher  
Advisor – Erna Varner  
**Executive Director Dave Claerhout**

#### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact us at the phone numbers listed.

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**Midland FSA  
954 E Isabella Rd  
Midland, MI 48640**

# *FSA News*

*Midland County*

*January 2009*

#### **2008 COC Election Results**

Congratulations to Jacqueline Beougher who was elected to the County Committee. Jackie has a strong Ag background and we look forward to working with her. As an elected committee person she will be representing producers from Geneva, Lee, Greendale, Jasper and Porter Townships for the next 3 years. Jackie will replace Charles McCune who has served on the committee for the past 9 years. Chuck did an outstanding job serving the producers of this county and will be missed.

#### **2009 DCP Program Starts**

The 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres began on Dec. 22 and will continue until June 1, 2009. Call for an Appointment.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a

commodity is below its target price.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and/or ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the State and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the State revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the State expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may

not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is **irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.**

### 10 Acre or Less Farms for 2009

The 2008 Farm Bill was amended to permit producers on a farm with the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm of 10.0 acres or less to receive DCP payments for the 2008 contract year.

For the 2009 contract year producers on farms with 10.0 acres or less are **not** eligible to receive Direct and Counter cyclical Program (DCP) payments on that farm unless that farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

For DCP purposes, a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is defined as someone who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. These groups consist of: 1) American Indian or Alaskan Natives; 2) Asians; 3) Blacks or African Americans; 4) Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; 5) Hispanics; and 6) Women.

The Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is a producer certification. Both of the following must be met:

- Directly or indirectly have gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years; and,
- Total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family

of 4, or less than 50 percent of the county median household income in both of the previous 2 years.

The Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher self-certification tool may be found at: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>.

### Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have the right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint.

The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Adjudication and Compliance within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

### Supplemental Ag Disaster Assistance

The 2008 Farm Bill is offering several new disaster programs, however to be eligible you must have at least CAT level crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for **all** non insurable crops. Programs included in the Supplemental Assistance will be:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program
- Tree Assistance Program
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised fish
- Livestock Indemnity Program

The application fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop not to exceed \$750.00 per county or \$1,875.00.

### 1099-G Mailed from Kansas City

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should receive a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2008. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you receive a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact the county office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

### Changes to FSA Payment Processing

FSA will be deploying a new payment processing system the first part of December.

Through the new system, all payments made through direct deposit will be processed through the Federal Reserve Bank and will be received in the participants account within 2-3 days of processing. For participants without direct deposit who receive payment by check, the U.S. Treasury will issue the payment and delays up to possibly 7 days should be expected. Be aware of the delays when tax preparation for 2008 or 2009.

### Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

### Under Represented Groups

FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation. Please notify this office if you wish to be identified as a minority producer.

### Foreign Person Rule

A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor. Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed in Observance of Presidents Day.
Mar. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Last day to purchase NAP
Continuous	Continuous CRP & CREP