



# Farm Service Agency Newsletter

Midland County

August 2010

*Midland County  
USDA Service Center*

**Midland County FSA**  
954 E Isabella Rd  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989) 832-3651 (phone)  
(989) 832-4089 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

**County Committee**  
Scott Maxwell  
Jack Terwillegar  
Jackie Beougher  
Megan Shaffner

**Midland County  
Committee meets  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of  
each month**

**Staff**  
Cheryl Rathbun, PT  
Amy Dull, PT  
Dave Claerhout, CED  
**Field Reporters:**  
Cindy Kniebel

## Dates to Remember

**August 1** – Deadline to request reconstitutions for 2010 crop year  
**August 2** – Deadline for COC nominating petitions to be returned  
**August 2-27** – General CRP sign up period  
**September 1** – final date to certify production for ACRE  
**September 6** – Office closed, Labor Day  
**September 30** – Crop Year 2011 sales closing date for non insurable perennial crops, such as alfalfa.  
**Ongoing**  
– Farm Storage Facility Loans  
– Continuous CRP & CREP



## CRP General Sign-up Announced

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup will begin on August 2, 2010 and continue through August 27, 2010.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. The general signup allows producers, if accepted, to enroll entire fields in the program.

CRP contract holders will plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share assistance and technical assistance. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into contracts of 10 to 15 years.

Interested producer's must contact their local FSA office no later than August 27<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of determining if their eligibility requirements are met prior to submitting their bid. We encourage all interested producers and landowners to contact us at their earliest convenience to ensure the timeliness of applications and the deadlines are met.



For more information regarding this program please contact the Midland County Farm Service Agency at (989) 832-3651.

## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is available to all producers of non insurable crops through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Division insures only specific crops in each county.

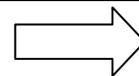
As the current legislation reads, if a natural disaster condition occurs, in order for a producer to be eligible for any assistance through the Farm Service Agency, all crops of economic significance must be insured either through RMA and/or Farm Service Agency for those non insurable crops.

The importance of this program is not realized until a disaster occurs. Please review your farm plans for the upcoming growing season and determine if NAP would benefit you. The cost to insure those crops through the Farm Service Agency is \$250.00 per crop, not to exceed \$750.00 per county and \$1875.00 per producer for all counties. Those non-insurable crops include:

- **Forage** (alfalfa, alfalfa mix, clover) – Deadline 9/30/2010
- **Spring-planted vegetables** (including cucumbers) – Deadline 3/15/2011

**Please note:** This is not a complete listing of eligible crops for the NAP program.

If you would like additional information on this program, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office.



## **Payments.....**

With the upcoming cycle of program payments to be issued beginning in October, we encourage all participants to review their Direct Deposit information to ensure that FSA records remain accurate. Direct Deposit changes that are not reported timely may cause delays in payments.

## **Follow-up on Wind Turbines**

There are many questions about the possibility of placing wind turbines on CRP acreage. In relation to land under CRP contract, **BEFORE** any ground is moved, these are the steps you should take:

1. Place a request with the FSA office to initiate the required environmental review.
2. The COC has the ability to authorize the installation of the turbine should the environmental review be confirmed.
3. If authorized, construction of access roads/turbine can start.
4. When construction is complete, the producer will pay FSA to perform a measurement service.
5. Repayment of all annual payments and liquidated damages plus calculated interest (not including the turbine itself) is required.

The Michigan FSA state office restated that **no** access roads, ancillary equipment, substations, or transformers will be allowed on acreage under CRP contract. **It is highly recommended CRP participants consider the placement of these components off CRP acreage to avoid possible repayments and penalties.**

## **Address Changes**

County newsletters are mailed from a central site. If you receive multiple newsletters, or if you are not interested in the material provided, please inform us so the necessary corrections can be made.

## ***Maintenance of CRP Cover***

CRP participants: cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Mowing activities may be allowed once per year and **ONLY** if needed to maintain the cover which means **only clipping weeds off to the top of the established cover**, and **ONLY** on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. Mowing for esthetic reason is not permitted. Mowing is only allowed between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter.

## ***2008 SURE Program***

The 2008 SURE Program (Supplemental Revenue Assistance) is available for producers who may have suffered a 2008 crop loss due to natural disaster conditions. The deadline to apply is September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. If interested, please contact this office for additional information as soon as possible.

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