



St Clair/Macomb FSA News

St Clair/Macomb FSA

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Street Address:
2830 Wadhams Rd
Kimball Mi

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

County Committee

Chairman
Ronald Parks
Vice Chairman
Richard Townsend
Members:
Ronald Beier
John Busemann
James Koss
Advisor
Loretta Domagalski

County Committee meets
3rd Wednesday of the
month

Staff

Brenda Boyd
Ellen Wilson
Steve Simmons
Karla Frammolino

Field Reporter

James Domagalski

County Executive Director

Dean Forrester

Farm Loan Manager

Phil Sweeney
810 664-0895 Ext 2



ACRE

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program began on April 27, 2009. ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill.

The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net. This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs (ACRE and DCP) and decide which one will work best for their operation."

Producers have until Aug.14, 2009, to make their decision for the 2009 crop. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Acres Reporting

The final date for reporting crop acreage has been extended until August 14, 2009.

Producers are required to report all crops on all cropland, including the field planting date, in order to qualify for several program benefits. To be considered timely, acreage reports are due in the county office by the earlier of August 14, 2009 or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of specific crop acreage being reported.

Program benefits requiring acreage reports include: Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program payments, Average Crop Revenue Program Payments, Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency payments, Conservation Reserve Program payments, Grassland Reserve Program payments, all Disaster Assistance Programs, including Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments. Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payment; for NAP purposes producers are required to file an acreage report by the extended acreage reporting date but no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest if that is earlier than the extended acreage reporting date.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition or destruction of the crop. For 2009 **only**, failed and prevented planting acreage will be considered filed timely, if filed by August 14, 2009.

IF YOU HAVE NOT CALLED FOR AN APPOINTMENT YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 810 984-3865 EX. 2

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.



Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

Please call now to set your appointment for DCP signup. DCP signup ends August 14, 2009



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe.

For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent.

Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.

When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.

FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include: Promissory note, Assignment of payment, Joint payment authorization, NAP actual production history and approved yield record, Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase, financing statement, UCC financing statement.

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. This procedure does not apply to the commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Program.

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members.

Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office.

Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

NAP Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. A Notice of Loss is required on for ALL CROPS COVERED BY NAP INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days after the normal harvest date.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Farm Changes

August 1st is the last day to submit reconstitution paper work for 2009. If you have any farm changes that require a reconstitution please contact our office as soon as possible.

Prevented Planting Acreage

FSA issued revised provisions regarding the maximum number of prevented planted acres to be approved. FSA will no longer base the eligibility on the history of planting and/or prevented planting of the specific crop.

Deadline to file for prevented planting acreage must be requested *within 15 days* of the ending planting date.



NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date.

Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. It is recommended producers submit 2008 production records as soon as possible after harvest. *All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.*

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits: for up to 5 years after the first conviction, for up to 10 years after the second conviction, permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing that the USDA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance.

The 1985 Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons are **ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they: plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985, or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990.

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of certain previously converted wetlands.

The following provides permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with Wetland compliance provisions: Wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions. However, **wetlands cannot be converted.** Wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits. Wetlands converted after Nov. 28, 1990, **must be** either restored to wetland status or mitigated to regain eligibility for program benefits. Wetlands that can be farmed under natural conditions **cannot be manipulated in any way**, unless the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the work would have a minimal effect on wetland values. Wetlands converted before December 23, 1985, can be farmed and maintained.

**Additional information about wetland compliance is available at
USDA Service Centers**



Unauthorized Disposition

Loan grain is not to be disposed of through feeding, selling, or any other means without prior written authorization. The financial penalties for this are severe. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold.

Thinking of Clearing a Fence Row?

Bringing new land into production by clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules.

Before you begin any land conversion project, please file form AD-1026. Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits.

FSA Down-payment Program

FSA has a special loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing farm property. Retiring farmers may use this program to help transfer their land to future generations.

To qualify, the applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price. This direct loan portion has a maximum loan amount of \$225,000. The loan has a very low fixed interest rate with a 20-year repayment.

Dates to Remember	
8/1/09	Last day to report farm changes/request reconstitutions
8/3/09	Last day to submit COC nominations
8/14/09	Last day to sign up for DCP and ACRE Program
8/14/09	Acreage reporting deadline and NAP production reporting deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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



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To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.