



St Clair/Macomb FSA News

St Clair/Macomb FSA

2830 Wadhams Rd
Kimball Mi 48074
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi
810 984-3865 Ext 2 (ph)
810 984-2345 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Chairman
Ronald Parks
Members:
Ronald Beier
John Busemann
James Koss
Jeff Brown
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 Officer

Larry Sheridan
810 664-0895 Ext 2



MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE

The mailing address for the Service Center has changed back to the street address as of January 1, 2010. If you are mailing any correspondence to the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the St Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District, the address is:

2830 WADHAMS RD
KIMBALL MI 48074

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Committee elections were held on December 10, 2009 for LAA 2 & LAA 4.

For LAA 2 the results were:
John Busemann – Member
Loretta Domagalski – 1st Alternate

For LAA 4 the results were:
Jeff Brown – Member
Robert Barr – 1st Alternate

I would like to thank Richard Townsend for serving on the County Committee and for his dedication and service to the Farmers of St Clair and Macomb Counties.

County Committee Meeting dates:

Currently the County Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9 A.M.; the schedule for 2010 is posted in the Service Center.

DCP DIRECT- DCP ACRE SIGNUP

Enrollment for the 2010 DCP Direct and DCP ACRE programs started October 1, 2009. The deadline for enrollment is June 1, 2010. **Now is the time to be calling for appointments to enroll.** There are no rules or fees allowing Producers to sign in to the program after June 1st.

Farms with 10 acres or less of base will be ineligible for payments. Exceptions apply to socially disadvantaged and limited resource producers.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) SIGNUP BEGINS

Signup for the **SURE program** began January 4, 2010; an ending date for the 2008 signup period has not been established.

This program replaces past ad hoc disaster programs for crops. Payments are earned when there is a revenue loss on all of a producer's farms combined. To be eligible, producers are required to have crop insurance or non-insured assistance (NAP) coverage on all crops, on all farms in the nation that are of economic significance. Economically significant is defined as a crop that is expected to contribute at least 5% of the farms income. For **SURE** to be available in a crop year, a county must have a "Secretarial" disaster declaration (or be contiguous to a disaster declared county) and the farm must suffer at least a 10% production loss on at least one crop, **OR** the actual production must be less than 50% of the normal production. Revenue losses cannot be determined until after the market year average prices have been determined (June 1 for wheat; September 1 for corn and soybeans). **SURE** payments equate to 60% of the difference between the guarantee and total farm revenue.

Both St Clair and Macomb Counties had Secretarial Disaster declarations for 2008, therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply.

To assist farmers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE calculator. To utilize the calculator, visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov/mi and look under "Hot Links". **Please note that the calculator and instructions linked on the FSA website are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way binds FSA to potential payments under SURE and should not be relied on as the sole source of information to make final management decisions.**



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 June 1, 2010.



ACRE PPRODUCTIN REPORTING

Producers participating in the ACRE program must report their actual crop yields for 2009, acceptable documentation includes:

Receipts of crops sold, (settlements statements, etc.)
Appraisals performed by crop insurance

Paid measurement of bins or other farm storage

Please **note**, that actual farm yields must be reported by the subsequent crop year's acreage reporting deadline. (June 30th for fall seed crops, July 14th for spring seed crops.)

Contact the local FSA for additional information

Reporting Changes in Your Farm Operations

It is important that you contact the office with **any** record changes that may have occurred in your operation. These changes include, but are not limited to:

- Address - any contact information.
- Direct Deposit - to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information are updated immediately.
- Development - land removed for houses, etc., needs to be reported.
- Owner/Operator Changes - changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements. (**Note: We will require NEW LEASES!**)
- Reconstitutions - farm and/or tract combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators.
- Farm Operating Plan - changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on "person" and/or "actively engaged" determinations (eligibility).

NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Ben Thelen assumed the duties of District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in early December. We welcome Ben and look forward to working with him. If you are interested in EQUIP, WHIP or any of the other Conservation programs that NRCS has to offer please contact him.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water & soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return the landowners receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain practices and cost share for establishment of the practice.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage offered must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact our office.



NEW FARM LOAN OFFICER

Larry Sheridan is the new Farm Loan Officer for our area; Larry is responsible for FSA Farm Loans for St Clair, Macomb, Lapeer, Oakland and Genesee Counties. His phone number is 810 664-0895.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. For additional Farm Loan information contact Larry Sheridan at 810 664-0895.

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 2009 production records as soon as possible after harvest. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.***

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New 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 which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. 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.

Marketing Assistance Loan

A 9-month Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

2009 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

	St Clair	Macomb
Wheat	\$1.83	\$1.87
Corn	\$1.84	\$1.86
Oats	\$1.32	\$1.32
Barley	\$1.67	\$1.67
Soybeans	\$4.92	\$4.96

The Final Availability date to request a wheat, barley or oat loan is March 31, 2010. For Corn and soybeans the final date is May 31, 2010.



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 can be severe. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold.

Thoughts from the Fence Row!

2009 proved to be a challenging year for Producers and for FSA County Office Staffs. I would like to thank both the Producers we serve for their patience and My Staff for all of their efforts this past year.

Watch for the next newsletter as it will be announcing a Farm Bill meeting for sometime in February. I am hoping to get the date and place set next week. We will be reviewing the new SURE program, DCP/ACRE and Conservation Programs, including those offered by NRCS.

We will also be having a NAP meeting for NAP producers in either February or March.

Have a good winter!

Dean E Forrester

dean.forrester@mi.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

1/18/2010	Office Closed Martin Luther King Day
2/1/2010	Last day to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for onions
3/15/2010	Last day to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for Spring seeded crops
3/31/2010	Last day for 2009 wheat, barley and oat Commodity Loans
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.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individual with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Dean Forrester (810) 984-3865, by phone or in person.