



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

Chairperson
Ronald Parks
Vice-Chairperson
Ronald Beier
Members:
John Busemann
James Koss
Jeff Brown
Advisor
Loretta Domagalski

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



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.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:
<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

SURE PROGRAM SIGNUP

Signup for the **SURE program continues**; an ending date for the 2008 signup period has not been established.

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.**

ACTIVELY ENGAGED

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the FSA.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;

The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the **members cannot exceed \$40,000.**

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.



Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements

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.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers 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 \$1,112,000. 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, Loans to

Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just please contact Larry Sheridan at (810) 664-0895.

There has been a large increase in demand for FLP services, so please contact your Farm Loan Programs staff early if you need FSA credit for spring planting, etc.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Committee Elections

LAA 3 is up for election this year. LAA 3 consists of Berlin, Mussey, Lynn, Brockway and Emmett Townships, anyone interested in running for the County Committee please contact our office for a nominating petition.



NAP

All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

If you were enrolled in 2009 NAP and have not submitted your production records please do so as soon as possible. We are working on 2008 & 2009 crop years reviewing all producers NAP files. We are updating all APH's for 2008 & 2009 along with completing application for payment on all crops that had a notice of loss filed in either of those two years. We are also completing as many 2010 APH's as possible, in preparation for the 2010 crop year.

Please remember as we are moving through spring and on to summer that if you suffer a loss due to an eligible condition that you must complete a CCC-576 Notice of Loss within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent.

It is important for producers to remember that if they hand harvest their crops and have a Notice of Loss on file that they are required to have a post harvest appraisal completed, failure to have a post harvest appraisal done could result in the loss of NAP benefits.

ACRE

The 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. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A 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 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 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% (85% 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. Participants in ACRE will forego counter-cyclical payments. Also a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20% and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

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.



Marketing Assistance Loan

A nine-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 loan for Corn and soybeans the final date is May 31, 2010.

**County Committee
Meeting dates:**

May 12, 2010
June 16, 2010
July 21, 2010
August 18, 2010
September 15, 2010
October 20, 2010
November 17, 2010
December 9, 2010

**Meetings start at 9
A.M.**



Thoughts from the Fence Row!

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching if you have not done so please call for a DCP/ACRE appointment, the deadline will be upon us before we know it and if you are not enrolled by June 1st you will not be eligible for the DCP or ACRE for 2010. There are no late-file provisions.

Finally I would be remiss in not mentioning the passing of Jim Hayes this past winter. Jim was one of those characters you only meet a few times in a life time. He was a true conservationist and an individual who appreciated the simple things in life.

“When I see an American Farmer, I see one who is with the land and a part of the land and therefore indistinguishable from it.”

David Sams

Dean E Forrester

dean.forrester@mi.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

5/30/2010	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
5/31/2010	Last day for 2009 corn and soybeans Commodity Loans
06/30/2010	Fall seeded crop reporting deadline
07/15/2010	Spring seeded crop 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.

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.