



Sanilac FSA News

Sanilac County USDA Service Center

Sanilac County FSA
50 E Miller Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
810-648-2998 (phone)
810-648-4670 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
Mike Bender
Mary Nichol
Mark Stone
Sally Grout

County Committee meets
1st Wednesday of Month

Staff
Rosemarie Gallagher
Steve Craig
Amy Brown
Kim Deming
Carol Nelson
Brenda Nichol
Dorann Miller
Sherri Sadro
Felicia Schulte

Walter Bonczar
Ken Janowiak



Crop Reporting Dead- line near

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), marketing assistance loans and LDP Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The deadline has been extended for the 2009 crop year, farmers need to file their acreage reports by **August 14, 2009 for all crops**. Contact the office for an appointment if you have not reported your acres.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

DCP & ACRE Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA 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, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 3rd** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

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. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the sales closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.



Signature Authority Requirements

County Offices are required to verify that a signature authority is on file in the county office before accepting a signature on any program or related documents on behalf of another.

Producers can present evidence of signature authority such as presentation of the original document, corporate charter, bylaws, court orders of appointment, trust agreement, last will and testament, or articles of partnership.

The FSA-211, Power-of Attorney form can also be completed to grant signature authority to another individual or entity.

With the New Farm Bill enactment, any FSA-211, Power of Attorney form that was filed previously and did not have the “current and future programs” area identified will not be acceptable for forms signed after 5-22-2008. This may mean that another power of attorney form will need to be signed by the grantor.

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, farm loan or Loan Deficiency Program. Spouses must have an FSA-211 on file to sign commodity loan documents or loan deficiency applications on behalf of each other.

Spouses may not sign FSA-211 on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Please contact this office for specific signature authority documents needed.

Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.

ACRE PROGRAM

The MSU Extension office will host an informational meeting on the ACRE program at their conference room on Friday, July 31st at 9:30 am.

Farmers will be required to certify to their Five (5) year (2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; and 2008) farm yields. Crop insurance records for reports of production can be used for this certification. If a producer is unable to provide acceptable or verifiable production evidence a County Plug Yield has been established and will be used in the Farms Benchmark Yield Calculation. Sanilac County plug yields are:

CROP	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BARLEY	60.1	52.3	58.1	56.3	62.7
CORN	131.7	152.3	158.8	126.6	162.2
OATS	87.8	74.3	70.6	68.3	80.9
SOYS	36.1	42.5	47	38.7	42.4
WHEAT	66	66.4	76	69.8	733

Farmers can use the ACRE Calculator that can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp> to help make their decision to enroll in ACRE in lieu the DCP program. All landowners are required to sign the ACRE ENROLLMENT form. All signatures are required due to this being an irrevocable decision and the farm will remain in ACRE thru the end of the current farm bill.

State Yields for Michigan have been announced as the following and the price guarantee is final for wheat, oats, and barley, but still preliminary for corn and soybeans at this time:

CROP	YIELD BU	PRICE	Final= F Prelim=P
BARLEY	49	4.09	F
CORN	138	4.13	P
OATS	63	2.89	F
SOYS	38.5	10.05	P
WHEAT	66	6.63	F

Contact the FSA office if you are thinking of enrolling in ACRE as soon as possible, the deadline for all landowner signatures is Friday August 14th.



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.



Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.



SANILAC COUNTY 2009 COMMODITY LOAN RATES	
CROP	LOAN RATE
BARLEY	1.67
CORN	1.89
OATS	1.32
SOYBEANS	4.97
SRW WHEAT	1.82
SWW WHEAT	2.05

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization (Marketing Authorization) from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Policy holders are reminded that they must submit a "Notice of Loss" (FSA-576) within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent. If you have noticed that your crop might be light due to the frosts or hail that we had this spring, contact the office so that we have the opportunity to take a look at your crop. For those of you that have filed a notice of loss, you need to keep us informed of your harvest decisions. If you are not going to harvest all or part of a block, an appraisal will need to be completed on that block. This appraisal will be used in calculating your loss claim.

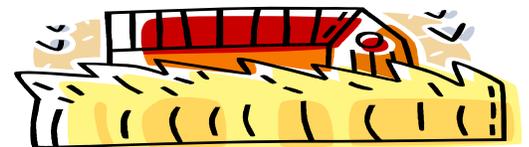
Remember we need to know the amount of crop sold from previous years in order to establish your actual production history (APH). Your APH is used to calculate your loss payment. This production evidence must have been supplied to the COF by July 15th.

Please contact this office for additional information.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.



Protection of Conservation Reserve Program Crop Base Acres (CRP) Cover Maintenance

Producers must protect land enrolled in DCP or the ACRE Program from weeds, including noxious weeds, and erosion. This includes all planted and idle base acres. Suggested covers, if not planted to program crops, include annual, biennial, or perennial grasses and legumes; volunteer stands, other than weeds; and crop residue from using no till or minimum tillage practices.

Attention CRP participants: cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. Mowing for cosmetic purposes or general weed control is not allowed and will result in financial penalties. Mowing maintenance activities may be allowed once per year, only if it is needed to maintain the approved cover, and only on the portion of CRP in need of maintenance. Mowing is permitted between ***August 1st and August 20th*** to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover. ***Producers may request permission to perform maintenance activities outside the specified timeframe, but each request has to be approved by the Sanilac County Committee on a case-by-case basis. Plan ahead and contact the FSA office prior to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres.*** Mowing on an annual basis is not an acceptable method of weed and woody growth control. The County Committee has the right to deny maintenance requests if previous mowing has not adequately solved the problem. Spraying an herbicide may be a viable option, but approval must be requested in writing and granted by the County Committee ***BEFORE*** you begin the maintenance activity.

Dates to Remember	
August 3	Final Date to request a farm reconstitution
August 14	Final Date to report planted acreage – ALL acreage on a farm must be reported to earn DCP or ACRE benefits
August 14	Final Date to enroll in DCP or ACRE Contract for 2009 – No Late file contracts allowed
September 7	Office closed for the observance of Labor Day
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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