



Sanilac County 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

Mark Stone, Chairperson
Mike Bender, Vice Chair
Mary Nichol, Member
Sally Grout, Advisor

County Committee meets
1st Wednesday of Month
9:00 am, conference
room

Farm Program Staff

Rosemarie Gallagher
Amy Brown
Kim Deming
Dorann Miller
Brenda Nichol
Sherri Sadro
Ken Janowiak
Walter Bonczar

Farm Loan Staff

Steve Craig
Felicia Schulte
Kaylee Erickson



AUGUST 2 – AUGUST 27 CRP General Signup 39

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis, however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup August 2 through August 27, 2010.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for an appointment or more information.

Since this is a nationally competitive bid process, participants will have to decide what type of practice cover they will implement on the acreage bid for CRP.

Different practice covers have corresponding point values in the competitive bid process:

CP1: Permanent introduced grasses and legumes;
10 points for planting of 2 – 3 species of an introduced grass species,
40 points for planting a mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.

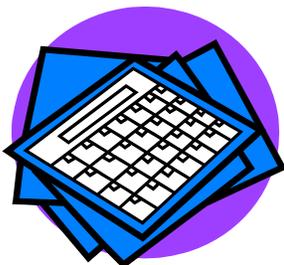
CP2: Establishment of permanent native grasses and legumes.
20 points for planting a mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb or legume species beneficial to wildlife,
50 points for planting a mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.



CURRENT CRP CONTRACTS Participants are reminded of the August 1st – 20th Normal Maintenance Period.

This is the time of year to complete your normal maintenance activities on your CRP contract acreage – consult your Conservation Plan of Operation for more information on your specific practice cover.

If you have a weed issue in your CRP cover that needs to be addressed before the normal maintenance period of August 1st – 20th, please contact the office and request to complete early maintenance activities; like spraying or mowing before the weed seed can mature and spread.



CP3 Tree Planting (general)

- 10 points for planting northern conifers (softwoods) – solid stand with more than 850 pines/softwoods per acre.
- 50 points for planting northern conifers (softwoods) at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre with 10% – 20% openings managed to a CP4d wildlife cover.

CP3A – Hardwood tree planting

- 10 points for a solid stand of non-mast producing hardwood species
- 20 points for solid stand of single hard mast producing species
- 30 points for mixed stand of 2 hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area
- 50 points for a mixed stand (3 or more species) of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.

CP4D Permanent wildlife habitat

- 40 points for a mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area.
- 50 points for a mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized

CP10 Vegetative cover, grass already established.

- 10 points for solid stand of 1 to 3 species of introduced grasses
- 40 points for solid stand of 1 to 3 species of native grasses
- 50 points for mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited to wildlife in the area.

CP11 Vegetative cover, trees already established

- 10 points for a solid stand of pine/softwood or solid stand of non-mast producing hardwood species
- 20 points for a solid stand of single hard mast producing species
- 30 points for a mixed stand (2 species) of hardwoods best suited for wildlife
- 50 points for mixed stand (3 or more species) of hardwoods
- 50 pine/softwood established at, or thinned as needed, to provide 10 to 20% openings of native

CP12 Wildlife food plot

- Food plots are small non cost shared plantings in a larger area
- 5 points is available
- Food plots will never be the predominant cover, and must be used in conjunction with another practice cover.

CP25 Rare and declining habitat restoration

- Seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area
- 50 points – plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.

Participants can optimize their bid offer by offering an amount less than the Maximum Payment Rental Rate.

Only one landowner signature is needed to place a bid by the end date of August 27th. If your bid is accepted at the national level, then all landowners listed on the recorded deed will be required to sign the CRP-1 Contract.

If your bid is accepted at the National Level, and after the August 27th deadline, and you decide not to enroll your land in the CRP program liquidated damages will apply at 25% of the rental rate x the number of acres bid.

Please contact the office at 810-648-2998, extension 2 for an appointment, if you are interested in placing a competitive bid.

Spot Check Determinations & Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

With the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, producers of eligible commodities can obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15-20 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 80-85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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 (currently 2.75% to 3.5%).

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 begins. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage 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
- Hay
- Renewable biomass, Fruits and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please contact the office.



SANILAC COUNTY 2010 COMMODITY LOAN RATES	
CROP	LOAN RATE
BARLEY	1.82
CORN	1.89
OATS	1.38
SOYBEANS	4.96
SRW WHEAT	1.73
SWW WHEAT	2.03

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!

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.



FSA Farm Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

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. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required.

Dates to Remember	
8/12 – 8/27	General CRP Signup
9/6	Office Closed for Labor Day
9/30	Final date to provide all necessary rental agreements and paperwork for 2010 DCP/ACRE payments
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.