



February/March 2009



Genesee/Shiawassee County News

Genesee County FSA
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FAX: (810) 230-2404

County Committee

Chad B. Morey
Terry Spezia
Ronald Dieck
Advisor
Shauna Weil

Staff

Karla A. Klasek
Jean Ann Tarrant
Brielle Hartner

Farm Loan Manager

Phil Sweeney, Lapeer

Shiawassee County FSA

1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867
(989) 723-8263, Ext. 2
FAX: (989) 723-8491

County Committee

Nicholas A. Zdunic
John T. Stasa
George J. Zmitko I
Advisor
Julia Birchmeier

Staff

Louri A. Miller
Larry R. Godfrey
Nancy J. Vogl
Angela J. Case
Bernadette Schneider
Debra Walker

Farm Loan Manager

David Hemker
Program Technician

Field Assistant

William Darnell

County Executive Director

Jayne A. Van Ness



FARM SERVICE AGENCY



EMPLOYEE CHANGES

IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER AND A NUMBER OF CHANGES HAVE COME ABOUT SINCE THEN.

TARA ELDRIDGE WHO WAS HIRED IN GENESEE COUNTY HAS RESIGNED HER POSITION WITH GENESEE COUNTY AND HAS BEEN HIRED IN LAPEER COUNTY. THIS CHANGE ALLOWS TARA TO BE CLOSER TO HOME.

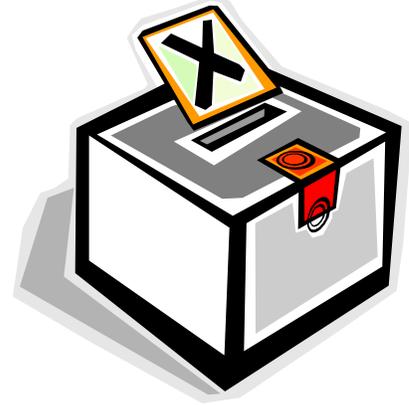
TERESA FEJES HAS LEFT THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY FARM LOAN POSITION AND HAS BEEN HIRED IN ISABELLA COUNTY AS A FARM LOAN PROGRAM TRAINEE.

WE WISH THEM BOTH GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW POSITIONS.

WITH THESE CHANGES THE GENESEE OFFICE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION AT THIS TIME. PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH THE STAFF AND DELAYS THAT MAY RESULT BASED ON THIS PERSONNEL ACTION.

COMMON LAND UNIT MAPS MAILED

The new CLU maps have been mailed and the 30 days allowing changes to be made to the boundaries have expired. Therefore, the county offices are now making official "Farm Record Changes" in the system. This action must be completed prior to enrollment into the 2009, Direct and Counter Cyclical Program.



Committee Election Results

The Genesee County Committee election was held on December 8th with the following results:

Chad B. Morey was re-elected to fill the three year term beginning January 1st.

Laura Slieff was elected as the 1st Alternate to the Genesee County Committee.

The Shiawassee County Committee election was held on December 4th with the following results:

John T. Stasa was re-elected to fill the three year term beginning January 1st.

David Kuchar was elected as the 1st Alternate to the Shiawassee County Committee.

Julia M. Birchmeier was elected as the 2nd Alternate to the Shiawassee County Committee.

FARM BILL
PROVISIONS



Farm Bill Enrollment is currently underway. As mentioned, all farm record changes resulting from the digital maps are required to be updated prior to enrollment. This will cause some delay in enrollment. **PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO COMPLETE ENROLLMENT.** This allows the county offices to pull all files and begin updating records prior to your visit.

ALSO, it is important that any cropland change that results in the reduction of bases on the farm must be agreed to by both the owner and operator of the parcel. If all forms are not signed by both the owner and operator within the 30 day time period given, the County Committee will reduce the lowest paying base crop automatically. This timeframe may also cause delays in enrollment.

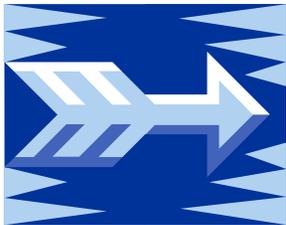
Please be patient.

Not a lot of information has been received regarding the ACRE Program at this time. The information previously given was as follows:

• **ACRE PROGRAM**
The Act authorizes ACRE program payments. In crop years 2009 through 2012, producers who make an irrevocable election to receive ACRE Program payments will:

1. not receive counter-cyclical payments on the farm.
2. be subject to a 20 percent reduction in direct payments for all covered commodities.
3. be subject to a 30 percent reduction in marketing assistance loan rates for all covered commodities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACRE PROGRAM WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM DEADLINE

Sign up deadline for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program has been announced. February 27, 2009 is the final date to apply for any quantity and/or quality losses due to natural disaster conditions in the above mentioned crop years.

If you feel that you may qualify for any of these disaster provisions and your crop was insured with Risk Management and/or the Farm Service Agency for the Non Insurable Crops for the any crop year 2005-2007, please contact the Farm Service Agency to verify eligibility and/or previous payments received.



MILC Enrollment

The Milk Income Loss Contract enrollment is currently underway. County offices have contacted all previous milk producer's to ensure timely enrollment into the MILC program. If you were not contacted or are a new producer, please contact the Farm Service Agency at your earliest convenience to receive information regarding this program. This program runs through September 30th, 2012.



LAMB PROMOTION

FSA in cooperation with AMS will be conducting a "Lamb Checkoff Program", continuance referendum. The referendum will be held from February 2nd through February 27, 2009 in all Farm Service Agency Offices.

Contact your local FSA for further details and referendum forms.



TRANSFER OF FARM'S ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

A change in a farm's administrative county office may be permitted to a neighboring county that currently has an FSA office without completing a farm combination in the receiving county if at least 1 of the following applies:

- The principal dwelling of the farm operator has changed.
- A change has occurred in the operation of the land.
- There has been a change that would cause the changed administrative county office to be more accessible.
- The producer documents that the changed administrative county office is "significantly" more convenient.

In and out transfers shall be:

- Signed by the farm operator and all owners.
- A 1-time option if done because of convenience. (unless a farm change in operation or ownership of the farm has resulted).
- Made only to a county that currently has an FSA office and is contiguous to the county where the farm is located.

Owner's and operator's should be aware that eligibility to vote in county committee elections may be affected.



COMMODITY LOAN PROGRAM

Time is running out to request a 2008 commodity loan on grain stored either on the farm in an eligible storage structure or in an approved warehouse.

The deadlines are:

March 31st, 2009 for wheat, oats and barley.

May 31st, 2009 for corn and soybeans

Contact your local FSA for additional information.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS

There are 3 active Disaster Declarations that may impact farmers in Genesee and/or Shiawassee County.

Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination S-2825, involves losses caused by drought conditions that occurred starting May 1st and ending September 17th, 2008. If your farm suffered a qualifying loss, you may be eligible for an Emergency Loan from the Farm Service Agency. Farm operators in Genesee and/or Shiawassee County may be eligible. Applications will be accepted through August 19, 2009.

Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination S-2832, involves losses caused by severe frost/freeze and cold weather events that occurred starting March 1st and ending May 31st, 2008. If your farm suffered a qualifying loss you may be eligible for an Emergency Loan through the Farm Service Agency. Farm operators in Genesee and/or Shiawassee County may be eligible. Applications will be accepted through August 31st, 2009

Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination S-2833, involves losses caused by storms with excessive rain, flooding and high winds that occurred starting April 12th and ending September 16, 2008. If your farm suffered a qualifying loss you may be eligible for an Emergency Loan from the Farm Service Agency. Farm operators in Genesee County only may be eligible. Applications will be accepted through August 31st, 2009.

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.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producer's who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or a cost break down of new equipment.
- Pay a \$45.00 application fee.
- Purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops in the county where the facility is constructed.
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee.
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility.

Contact FSA for additional details.

ELIGIBILITY PAPERWORK

Provisions of the new farm bill require Producers to complete all "NEW" eligibility paperwork beginning in 2009. The required forms include:

- Individual payment eligibility forms if claiming benefits as an individual.
- Entity payment eligibility forms if claiming benefits as a partnership, trust, LLC, corporation and/or estate.

Please understand that with this requirement as well as the requirement to have all acreages updated to match the digital maps previously mailed will take additional time.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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