June/July 2009 Issue # 03

Genesee/Shiawassee County FSA News

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DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) has been extended until August 14, 2009. No late file provisions are available.

Please contact your local FSA Office in advance to ensure timely enrollment.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTING

The deadline to report all 2009 planted and/or considered planted crop acreage is:
June 30th – fall seeded small grains
July 15th – all other crops

All cropland acreage must be reported by the above deadline dates. Planting dates are required.

Prevented Planting Acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting dates. Those dates are:
Wheat – October 25th
Oats – May 20th
Sugar Beets – May 20th
Corn – June 5th
Soybeans – June 15th
Dry Beans – June 25th

Failed Acreage due to approved disaster provisions must be reported prior to disposition of the crop acreage.

SODBUSTER/SWAMPBUSTER PROVISIONS

Sodbusting violations may result when unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands converting native vegetation, such as grassland and/or woodlands to crop production after December 23, 1985 have occurred.

Farmers should be aware that if they convert highly erodible land to crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in most USDA programs.

Wetland violations may result when wetlands have been converted for crop production. This includes draining, dredging, filling, leveling or otherwise manipulating a wetland to engage in crop production.

Any drainage clearing, cleaning and/or improvement must also be reported to FSA to ensure program provisions are met and violations will not result.

Contact FSA if you have any questions and/or concerns regarding acreage eligibility.

ALL USDA SERVICE CENTER OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3RD in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

Flag Flying Holidays

Flags will be flown at half staff on the following observed dates:

Peace Officers Day – ***May 15th***

Memorial Day – ***Last Monday in May***

Patriot Day – ***September 11th***

Pearl Harbor Day– ***December 7th***

Nomination forms are available for those individuals wishing to participate in the upcoming COC election. Nominations are being accepted in the following areas:

GeneseeCounty: Burton, Davison, Forest, Genesee, Richfield and Thetford Twp.

Shiawassee County: Antrim, Bennington, Burns, Shiawassee and Vernon Twp.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator will be combined as one farm serial number. When changes in ownership of land or operation of parcels take place, a farm reconstitution may be required.

The process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation are necessary to ensure accurate farm records. All farm changes requiring these actions must be requested by **August 1st.**

The different methods used when completing reconstitutions are:
Estate Method is the division of bases of a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.
Designation of Landowner Method may be used when (1) part of a farm/tract is sold or ownership is transferred (2) an entire farm/tract is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm/tract ownership is transferred to two ore more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.
DCP Cropland Method is the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.
Default Method is the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Banking Changes?

Farm Service Agency payments made electronically require accurate Direct Deposit information. To eliminate delays in direct deposit functions, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes made to your financial institutions.

Changes in accounts and/or institutions require an update of your financial information in the Farm Service Agency computer.

Please notify FSA timely of those changes.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

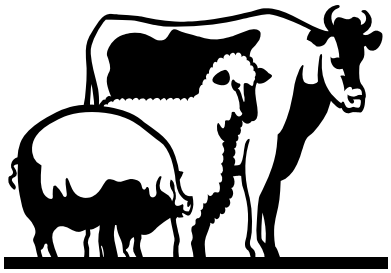
If convicted of one of these offensives, the program participant shall be ineligible during the crop year and four succeeding crop years for DCP payments, ACRE payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance payments or SURE program payments.

Program participants convicted of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall be ineligible for all benefits:

*for up to 5 years after the first conviction

*for up to 10 years after the second conviction

*permanently for a third conviction



Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

PAYMENT LIMITATION/ELIGIBILITY

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years
Participants enrolling into the 2009 program are required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. Form CCC-502 was used in previous years.

Another change for 2009, ALL MEMBERS OF AN ENTITY MUST MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Person or Legal Entity Payment Limitations	**Limitation (in Dollars)**
Program Payment Type	2009/ 2010/ 2011/2012
Commodity Programs	
Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)	65,000 **1/**
Direct payments on covered commodities	40,000 **2/**
Conservation Programs	
Conservation Reserve Program (**CRP**) annual rental payment.	50,000
Grassland Reserve Program (**GRP**)	50,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (**WHIP**)	50,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (**WRP**)	50,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (**ELAP**); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (**LFP**); Livestock Indemnity Program (**LIP**);Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program **(SURE**)	100,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (**NA**P)	100,000
Tree Assistance Program (**TAP)**	100,000
Loan Deficiency Payments (**LDP**); Marketing Assistance Loans; Marketing loan gain (**MLG**)	No limits

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that direct payments are reduced.

2/ If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each far that is participating in ACRE.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Shiawassee County FSA Office
1900 S. Morrice Rd.
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Appointments

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.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

Dates to Remember	
June 30th	Last day to report fall seeded small grain crops
July 3rd	Office Closed
July 15th	Last day to report all other crops
July 15th	Last day to submit production for NAP
August 1st	Last day to request farm changes/reconstitutions
August 3rd	Last day to submit COC nominations
August 14th	Last day to sign up for DCP and ACRE
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.