



Shiawassee County News



Shiawassee County USDA Service Center

1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867
(989) 723-8263, Ext. 2
FAX: (989) 723-8491
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

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

County Committee meets
the 2nd Thursday

County Staff

Louri A. Miller
Larry R. Godfey
Nancy J. Vogl
Bernadette Schneider

Farm Loan Staff

David Hemker
Michelle Bailey

County Executive Director

Jayne A. Van Ness

County Committee Election Results

The results of the Shiawassee County Committee election are:

- **Nicholas Zdunic**

Nicholas was re-elected to fill the three year term beginning January 1st.

- **Dale Hackney**

Dale was elected as the 1st Alternate to the Shiawassee County Committee

- **Donald Gauthier**

Donald was elected as the 2nd Alternate to the Shiawassee County Committee.

Local Administrative Area #1 in the townships of; Fairfield, Middlebury, Owosso, Perry, Sciota & Woodhull will hold elections in calendar year 2010.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES



In January 2010, Shiawassee County employee, Angela Jo Case transferred to the Highland FSA Office in Florida. Angie was hired in Shiawassee County in 1985 and has worked with 5 different CED's. We wish Angie the best of luck in her new position!



EMPLOYEE NEWS

In July 2009, Louri Miller participated in "United We Serve", a volunteer program. For her participation as well as her "Community Service", Louri received the "Presidents Volunteer Service Award" from President Barack Obama as one of the top 100 USDA employees who are especially passionate about community service. Louri also received in November 2009 the Farm Bureau volunteer of the month. **Congratulations Louri, we are proud to have you as part of our team.**

FAX DOCUMENTS

REMINDER – Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of information provided to USDA-FSA through FAX or electronic transmission. USDA is not responsible for any transmission failures or any other problems that prevent the successful or timely receipt of FAX's and electronic transmissions.

SERVICE CENTERS WILL NOT ACCEPT or approve any form or document received through FAX or electronic device if the date and time of the FAX cannot be verified.

Please verify your FAX machine time and date to ensure compliance with this requirement.

SURE PROGRAM UPDATE

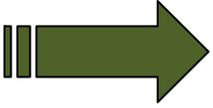
The supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in crop years 2008 through 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all insurable crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) through the Farm Service Agency. Currently, FSA has received information on the 2008 SURE program. Please stop by the FSA Office to inquire about the eligibility of the 2008 SURE program. Possible qualifications for this program are:

- At least one crop of economic significance suffered a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster.
- All crops (both insurable and non-insurable) of economic significance were insured either by crop insurance or FSA.
- A crop insurance indemnity was received on a crop of economic significance in 2008.

Contact FSA for additional details.



2010 DCP Sign-up



DCP INFORMATION

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through the **JUNE 1, 2010 DEADLINE**. We have been informed that there will be no extensions granted beyond the deadline date established, therefore please contact the FSA Office at your earliest convenience to set up an appointment to timely enroll.

IMPORTANT CASH LEASE agreement changes.....

Beginning in 2010, cash lease agreements must include at a minimum:

1. Signature dates
2. Length of Lease (If multiple year lease, list number of years)
3. Must have land owner and operators names printed and signatures.
4. Type of lease (Cash lease, barter lease and barter terms)

THE OPTIONAL ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) 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. USDA will not accept any late filed applications.

The decision to enroll into the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

For additional information on the ACRE program, please contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

Adjusted Gross Income Provisions

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 participating in farm programs. Written consent will be **REQUIRED** for 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) **by June 15th to avoid interruption of program benefits**. These forms may be obtained from your local FSA Office or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>

PREVENTED PLANTING

Definition - Failure to plant the insured crop . . . by the final planting date designated in the Special Provisions for the insured crop in the county. . . You must have been prevented from planting the insured crop due to an insured cause of loss that is general in the surrounding area and that prevents other producers from planting acreage with similar characteristics.

Reporting- If you wish to receive credit for failed and/or prevented planting crops, you are required to report before destroying the failed crop or 15 days from final planting date.

2010 ACRE ENROLLMENT



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 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 together 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.

SODBUSTER/SWAMPBUSTER PROVISIONS

Most USDA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop (sodbuster), as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Further, USDA participants are prohibited from converting wetlands for agricultural production purposes (swampbuster) and planting an agricultural commodity on converted wetlands. Any updates to current drainage systems should be reviewed by NRCS to ensure eligibility for farm program participation is not jeopardized.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland that does not have a previous NRCS determination, check with NRCS to verify that the new crop will qualify under your conservation system by completing a new AD-1026 form with FSA prior to such activities.

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 offenses, 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 storage facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance payments or SURE program payments.

Program participants convicted of the distribution 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

WOOL AND MOHAIR PRODUCERS

We remind our wool and mohair producer's that they must come into the office and sign form CCC-633EZ before beneficial interest is lost in the shorn wool/mohair and/or unshorn pelts from lambs slaughtered to receive Loan Deficiency Payments. The wool/mohair or pelts can be sold any time prior to the final loan availability date of January 31st if page 1 is signed. Payment rates are updated weekly.

CREP, SAFE & Continuous CRP Available

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practice, and Continuous CRP are eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

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Shiawassee County FSA
1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT #19

BANK CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be direct deposited into your bank account. Please notify this office of any bank changes to ensure deposits are not delayed.

FARM CHANGES

All farm changes shall be reported to this office prior to enrollment but **not later than August 1st** to ensure farm records remain accurate for farm program participation.

LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER

If your direct or indirect gross farm sales were less than \$100,000 for both of the last 2 years and your total household income is at or below the poverty level for a family of 4 in both of the previous 2 years, you may qualify as a limited resource producer. For more information see the USDA Tool at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or call the office for an appointment. The 2008 Farm Bill addresses the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource farmers and ranchers. It offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services. Enhancements include streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance, and improved programs and services.

Dates to Remember

May 31 st	Office Closed
June 1 st	DCP enrollment deadline
	ACRE enrollment deadline
June 15 th	CCC-927/928 deadline
June 30 th	Wheat crop reporting date
July 5 th	Office Closed
July 15 th	Certification 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.