



# Washtenaw/Wayne County News

Ann Arbor  
USDA Service Center

**Washtenaw/Wayne  
County FSA**  
7203 Jackson Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-761-8789 (phone)  
734-662-1686 (fax)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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

**County Committee**  
Walter Rochowiak  
Luther Schaible  
Marilyn Gordon  
Robert Breuninger

**County Committee  
meets**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month

**Staff**

**Program Technicians**  
Lori Maulbetsch  
Lori Terreault  
Laura Whitaker

**County Executive  
Director**  
Linda Rector



## Payment Processing

With the passage of the new farm bill in 2008, several changes were made in how eligibility is determined. Software changes were also made. These changes affect anyone who receives program payments from the Farm Service Agency. Changes include:

- Statements are now sent directly from Kansas City.
- Final direct payments for DCP will show **reductions for any advance payment you requested and received** earlier this year.
- The sum of ALL advance payments you received will be totaled and subtracted from the **first farm(s)** that are processed.
- Once the advance payments are all accounted for, you will receive **100% of the annual payment on all subsequent farms**. (No deduction for advances).
- All payments may also have a short delay in processing in order to search for any outstanding Federal debt. If an outstanding Federal debt is discovered, the payment will be applied to offset the debt.
- Direct Deposit payments made by FSA will show up as **FSA TREAS 310** on your bank statement.

As with any “new & improved” system, it takes time getting used to some changes. This is no exception. Therefore, we ask for your patience as we all get used to the new system for processing payments. Rest assured that payments will all be made.

## Voting for County Committee

Ballots for this year’s county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.

The candidates in this year’s election are:

Howard K Sias  
Robert E Breuninger

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 3 (Ann Arbor, Lima, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Superior and Webster Townships) Who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

**1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*  
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

**3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)  
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)  
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)  
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program  
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, LFP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer

### Emergency Livestock Assistance Program-ELAP



ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, colony collapse, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to flooding and high winds. ELAP does not cover losses suffered due to drought.

Producer eligibility for ELAP also requires that all crops in all counties have crop insurance coverage or Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the crop year in which benefits are requested. USDA's payment limitations provisions apply to producers enrolling in disaster programs along with adjusted gross income limitations and conservation compliance. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year **2008** must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 14, 2009**. Losses from **Jan. 1, 2009 through Sept. 13, 2009** must provide a notice of loss by **Dec. 14, 2009** and an application for payment by **Jan. 30, 2010**. Producers who suffer losses **Sept. 14, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2009**, shall file a notice of loss **within 30 days** of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than **January 30, 2010**. As a reminder, there are **no late file provisions**.

For more information or to apply for ELAP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

### Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff.

If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "[Create an Account Page](#)" link.

### Changing Banks



If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, 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. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or 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** — 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** — 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.

## 2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.



**Cash Leases for DCP/ACRE:** Michigan has implemented procedures on lease requirements: Lease must include at a minimum; **Signature dates; Length of lease (If multiple year lease list number of years; Must have land owner and operators names printed and signatures; Type of lease (Cash lease, barter lease, and barter terms).**

## The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program 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. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

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

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.



**Special Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

**Job Openings**

We have two temporary intermittent job vacancies, 1 Office and 1 Field. Office duties will vary depending on the project. Duties could include activities such as typing, file, computer data loading, filling out and processing applications. Field duties include measuring fields, inspect stored commodities, measuring grain bins, and other field work as assigned. Farm Background is not necessary but is helpful.

Both are temporary intermittent position. This means that your work schedule will depend on projects and budget. Background check will be required before you can start. Applications (FSA-675) can be picked up at the office or gotten on line at <ftp://165.221.16.16/public/Forms/FS A0675.PDF> and must be returned by December 21, 2009.

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**Interest Rates**

Please contact the FSA Office for interest rates for the following:

- Farm Operating and Ownership loans
- Limited Resource Loans
- Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- Emergency Loans
- Farm Storage Facility Loans 7, 10, or 12 year
- Commodity Loans 1996-Present

Dates to Remember	
Dec.1	NAP sales closing date for honey and maple sap
Dec.7	Final date for COC Election ballots
Dec. 25	Office Closed for Christmas Day
January 1, 2010	Office Closed for New Years Day
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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.