



Wexford-Osceola-Benzie-Missaukee FSA County News

Cadillac Area USDA Service Center

7192 E 34 Rd
Cadillac MI 49601

231-775-7681 (phone)
231-775-0938 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED FOR ALL LEGAL
HOLIDAYS

County Committee

Gary Lathwell, Chair
Bruce Eisenga, Vice
Robert Morlock, Member
Rick Tacoma, Member
Eric Peterson, Member

County Committee meets
3rd Tuesday/each month
9:30 a.m.

Staff

County Executive Director
Virginia Pulford
virginia.pulford@mi.usda.gov

Farm Loan Managers
Larry Cleary
Rick Dean/Osceola

Program Technicians
Cindy Richard
Patty Salasky
Benita Meekhof

Field Reporters
Ron Kamaloski
Marsha Musselman
Tom Williams



2010 FSA County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Bruce Eisenga and Eric Peterson who were elected to serve a three year term on the area county committee.

Eric Peterson represents the farmers from Wexford County (LAA-1) and Bruce Eisenga represents the farmers from (LAA-4) which is the SW 4 townships of Missaukee County and the NW 4 townships of Osceola County.

Alternates for LAA-1 are Ray Fox and Dean George. Alternate for LAA-4 is Paul Miller.

At the January meeting, Gary Lathwell was appointed to serve as the chairperson and Bruce Eisenga was appointed to serve as Vice Chairperson.

The committee and alternates took office on January 1, 2010.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county system works only because of your participation.

NAP Dates to Remember

2010 Sales Closing Dates:

March 15th was the final date to purchase NAP coverage on annual crops.

NAP Production Reporting

NAP producers are required to provide production records for each crop to establish an approved NAP yield on a yearly basis. Records submitted must be verifiable or reliable. Records also need to show disposition. The final date to provide 2009 production was March

15th if you have filed a notice of low yield; otherwise the final date is July 15th, 2010.

DCP

Signup for 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. Advance direct payments are 22 percent of the total direct payment. No Extension to sign up has been granted.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. June 1st deadline is mandatory for all participants. No late filed applications can be accepted.

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 average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

ACRE payments are issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. 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%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in this 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.

Reporting Production

Producers enrolled in the new ACRE program will be required to have verifiable production evidence for crop year 2009 or for farm stored commodities. Production certifications reported to crop insurance are acceptable if used for yield purposes. 2009 ACRE participants must submit 2004-2008 production records to FSA to complete form FSA-658 for a

Benchmark yield. Provide crop insurance (RMA) 2009 production and yield worksheet report that shows 2008 and previous year's production.

2009 Schedule of Insurance report may be submitted for 2009's production. The forms may be faxed to the Attn: of Benita Meekhof. If you feed your production, onsite visits are available to measure production.

Measurement Fees

Basic farm visit fee is \$30 plus \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for each additional 30 minutes. The fee includes actual time spent traveling, measuring, and calculating. There is a minimum charge of one hour which makes the minimum fee for a measurement service \$46 or more. We will also be able to use appraisals completed by Loss Adjustors for producers with RMA buy-up insurance.

If there are no acceptable production reports submitted; NASS County yield data is assigned.

Bank Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, you need to notify us when changing financial institutions. Payments are delayed when FSA is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

Changes to this program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. This program allows producers with eligible commodities to 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 percent. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may vary and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Commodities eligible for FSFL are:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grains.
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than whole grain.
- Hay
- Renewable Biomass materials
- Fruits and vegetables – cold storage facilities

For details regarding this program contact the county office or www.fsa.usda.gov

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap

Keep checking the above website for changes regarding this program. The comment period ends April 6, 2010. We will notify all existing applicants when the new rules are in effect.

Loans for the Socially disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase to improve farms.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply, FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. (one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to individual qualities). The group is identified as women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian American, and Pacific Islanders.

For complete details contact the office and ask to speak with your Farm Loan Manager.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are NOT US citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA0153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with IRS to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each 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 for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Form CCC-927 (Individual and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) must be submitted to IRS by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. FSA cannot mail this form to you to complete or mail the completed form to IRS. Forms are available at the office or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainse/vlet>

SURE

THE Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, obtain NAP coverage from FSA. Exception is crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer is exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

Applications for 2008 crop losses are currently being taken. For details on the SURE program, contact Benita in this office.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

MILC PAYMENTS

It has been released that there will be a MILC payment on April's pounds. It will be a minimum of \$.2115/hundredweight. Payments to be made in June after the feed cost factor has been added.

Pounds shipped in December through March do NOT count toward your total pounds allowed under this program. If you did not reach your maximum level in October and November then you are eligible for a payment on April pounds.

Emergency Loans Available – 2009 Crops

Multiple Disaster Designations have been issued affecting Michigan counties. Area counties have been designated eligible for Emergency farm loans due to losses caused by the cool growing season, early frost, freeze, excessive rainfall, storms, and drought.

Applications will be received through October 1, 2010. The current interest rate is 3.75 percent. Emergency loan eligibility requirements include: A 30% loss of normal production in an essential farm enterprise, or a qualifying physical loss; and the inability to obtain commercial credit to meet current needs. Insurance and other compensation are deducted to determine the amount of loss.

For additional information on FSA farm loans contact: Rick Dean (231-796-2659) in Osceola or Larry Cleary in this office.

Cadillac Area FSA Office
7192 E 34 Rd
Cadillac, MI 49604



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

FSA would like to thank Apple Valley Orchards for their donation of 2009 excess apples and allowing USDA employees to pick and deliver apples to the distribution center in Cadillac. We made three visits to the orchard and picked 125 bushels which were distributed to needy people in the North West Michigan area through the Social Service Distribution center.

Dates to Remember	
March 31	Closing date for 2009 honey loans
May 31	Closing date for 2009 crop loans
June 1	Final date to enroll in 2010 DCP or sign up for ACRE.
June 30	Last day to report fall seeded crops
July 15	2010 acreage reporting ends
May 31 July 5 Sept 6	Legal Holiday-Office Closed
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.