



January 2009

Eaton County News

**Eaton County
USDA Service Center**
551 Court House Drive
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-1512 (phone)
517-543-5962 (FAX)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 – 4:30

County Committee
Jack Holbrook
Wm. Hosey
Duane Smuts
Gerry Holbrook, Advisor

Staff
Lori Aseltine
Heather Kennedy
Mike McManus
Becky Southern
Claude Smith, Field Asst.
Mark VanBuren, CED

IMPORTANT DATES

March 15
Sales closing date for
most spring planted NAP
crops

June 1
2009 DCP enrollment
ends



2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program

Producers have until June 1 to enroll in DCP for 2009. Beginning with 2009 program regulations no longer provide for a “late filed” signup period. Applications will not be approved unless all producers with a share on the contract have signed the DCP contract and submitted all applicable documentation by June 1.

ACRE Program

An enrollment date has not been set yet for ACRE. Farms enrolled in DCP can be cancelled and subsequently enrolled in ACRE.

Changes to 10 acre rule for 2009

Program rules for 2009 allow farms with 10 or less base acres to be combined with other farms and thus earning a DCP payment. Established farm reconstitution will rules apply. Farms with 10 or less base acres remain ineligible to participate in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, unless the farm is solely operated by a Socially Disadvantaged or Limited Resource Producer. Producers must request these farm combinations

Permanent Disaster Program Provisions

Crop insurance or NAP is required on all crops of economic significance including forage crops to be eligible for disaster programs under the 2008 Farm Bill. Please contact you insurance provider for sales closing dates. Final enrollment date for annually planted crops covered by NAP is March 15.



2009 MILC Program

Producers may now begin enrolling in the MILC program for 2009. Applications submitted by January 21 can include any months in fiscal year 2009. Applications submitted after January 21 can include any month in which the payment rate has not yet been announced.

Commodity Loan Repayments

Producers submitting buyer’s checks for commodity loan repayments will receive their share of the proceeds from USDA’s National Payment Service. County offices will no longer be issuing checks when the buyer’s check is submitted at the County Office.



Revised Adjusted Gross Revenue Limitations for 2009 and Beyond

The 2008 farm Bill contained the following new AGI rules for farm program eligibility:

- Non farm income exceeds \$500,000:**
Ineligible for all commodity , price support and disaster assistance
- Farm Income exceeds \$750,000:**
Ineligible for direct payments under DCP
- Nonfarm income exceeds \$1,000,000:**
Ineligible for all conservation program benefits

LOAN AND LDP PROVISIONS

To be eligible for Price Support Benefits (marketing assistance loans, loan deficiency payments) all crop acreage must be reported by the final certification date.

Producer must have beneficial interest (title) in the commodity at the time benefits are requested. Estates, trusts, or heirs may be eligible for benefits in cases of succession from an eligible producer. The final date to request benefits on the proceeding year's commodities is January 31 for wool and mohair, March 31 for wheat and oats, and May 31 for corn and soybeans. Contact the FSA office for final availability dates on other commodities.

County Committee Elections

Jack Holbrook has been reelected To the County FSA Committee representing Delta, Windsor, Eaton, Eaton Rapids, Brookfield, and Hamlin Townships for a three year term.

Spouse Signature Authority

Spouses can sign documents on each other's behalf for FSA or CCC programs unless written notification denying this authority has been filed in the County office. This procedure does not apply to the commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Program. Spouses must have an FSA-211 on file to sign commodity loan documents on behalf of each other.

Special Accommodations

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA and CCC programs should contact Mark VanBuren, County Executive Director at (517) 543-1512 or (269)948-8037 or e-mail at mark.vanburen@mi.usda.gov or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-887-8339.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) provides crop insurance like loss protection to producers of crops that are not insurable. These include crops grown for food, fiber, livestock consumption, floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, ginseng, seed crops, and industrial crops. Producers must submit and application and pay an administrative fee for coverage by the crop enrollment date. (Crop enrollment dates vary.) Crop acreage, losses, and production reports for actual production history are required to be filed timely. **All crops must be covered by crop insurance or NAP to be eligible for disaster assistance under the new Farm Bill.**



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