



May/June 2007

Allegan County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

Issue 2

Allegan County FSA
1668 Lincoln Road
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-6940 ext 2
(269) 673-9671 (fax)

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

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Earl Collier
Raymond Brenner
Jeffrey Lenhart

**County Committee
Advisor** - Larinda Miller

Office Staff
Penny Andrews
Brenda Carroll
Janis Chestnut
Patricia Powers
Teresa Messing

**County Executive
Director** - Linda L Rector

Farm Loan Manager
Leslie Wills
Ottawa County FSA
(616) 842-5852 ext 2

**County Committee
Meetings** - 2nd Wednesday
of each month.

Dates to Remember Last day to

May 31 - Request loan or
LDP for corn or soybeans

June 1 - Request Farm Re-
constitution

July 2 - Report Fall seeded
crops

July 16 - Report Spring
seeded crops & CRP

August 3 - Enroll DCP Con-
tract without \$100.00 late fee

August 4 - September 30
DCP contract signup period
with \$100.00 late fee

Office Closed - July 4th

Ongoing - Continuous CRP
Farm Storage Facility Loans

DCP Sign-up Extended to Aug 3rd.

The DCP Sign-up Deadline has been extended from June 1st to August 3, 2007 for this year only. Anyone signing after Aug 3rd but before September 30th will pay a \$100 late fee per farm.

If an operator shares with the landowner, the landowner must also sign the CCC-509 contract. If the operator cash rents, they may provide a copy of their lease or provide a cash rent certification statement that addresses the following:

- The producer is requesting a payment to be made after June 30th.
- The farm was cash rented by the producer in the previous fiscal year and the producer received the DCP payment for that year.
- The operator should also designate the farm number and owner's name.

If you have any farms requiring reconstitutions, be sure to request this PRIOR to DCP signup. This would include parts of farms being sold and you no longer operate the parcel being sold, or farms with multiple tracts owned by different owners and you no longer operator 1 or more of the tracts for the current year.

Call for an appointment Today

Producers can enroll in DCP online. USDA provides eDCP services in a secure online environment that protects participants' privacy through stringent security measures. FSA provides all producers with DCP Nationwide Customer Service, meaning you may visit any FSA office throughout the country to complete your DCP contract. Producers must have a Level 2 eAuthentication account.

2007 CROP REPORTING

Producers are required to report **ALL** of their cropland, including the field planting date, in order to qualify for several program benefits. Such as:

- Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments
- Commodity Loans and Loan
- Deficiency Payments (LDPs)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments
- Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) Payments

The acreage reporting deadline is **July 2** for fall-seeded crops and **July 16** for all other crops.



Prevented planted

Reports must be submitted no later than 15 days after the final planting date for NAP crops and by the final reporting date for non-NAP crops.

Acreage reports for **failed acreage** must be filed before the crop is destroyed and must be approved by the County Committee (COC).

Again, we encourage producers to check with the local FSA office before planting.

Veggies or Fruits on DCP Acres

Producers intending to plant FAV's (fruits or vegetables), such as dry beans, are reminded to check with the FSA office **before** planting.

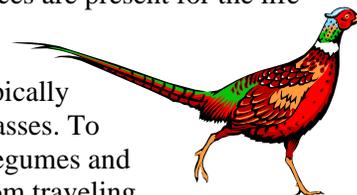


FAV's planted on 2007 DCP payment acres will cause a reduction in DCP payments on that FSA farm, on an acre for acre basis, and may create serious consequences if that FSA farm or the producer does not have a history of planting such crops.

Mid Contract Management of CRP Acres

Mid-Contract Management of CRP are activities that must be performed on certain practices to ensure the original plant diversity, wildlife benefits, and protections of the soil and water resources are present for the life of the contract.

For CRP practices with grasses, legumes, & wildflowers, research has shown that typically 5-6 years after establishment the site becomes dominated by a thick growth of the grasses. To ensure wildlife habitat benefits in these sites, management is required to encourage legumes and wildflowers, and to ensure the grass is not too thick to limit small wildlife species from traveling through the cover to meet their needs.



This is your responsibility and must be followed according to your conservation plan. Variances can be approved on a case-by-case basis, if a variance is needed please contact the office in advance.

Wool and Mohair LDPs



The 2007 crop year for wool and mohair began January 1st. Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are available for 2007 wool and mohair. Make sure you have a CCC-633EZ on file before you lose beneficial interest in your 2007 Wool. You can obtain this form online or from our office.

Commodity Loans

Unauthorized Disposition: Loan grain is not to be disposed of through feeding, selling, or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization. The financial penalties for this are severe. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold

Farm Loans

Direct and guaranteed loans are available to family farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural production. FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.



Under a **guaranteed loan**, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases. Maximum indebtedness is \$899,000 adjusted annually for inflation.

For those unable to qualify for a loan guarantee from a commercial lender, FSA also makes **direct loans**. Maximum indebtedness is \$200,000.

Farm Ownership Loans funds may be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation.

Operating Loans funds may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Funds can also be used for minor building improvements, cost associated with land and water development, family subsistence and refinance debts under certain conditions.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans are available to individuals or entities that have not operated a farm or ranch more than 10 years; meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program; substantially participates in the operation; and for Farm Ownership loans purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30% of the average size farm in the county. For direct Farm Ownership loans applicants must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years. Member of entities must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders of Corporation must be beginning farms.

FSA has a special down payment Farm Ownership loan program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Loans, Direct and guaranteed loan funds have been reserved for SDA persons. Direct and Guaranteed loans are available to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The agency discovers and removes barriers that prevent full participation of those persons in FSA' farm loan programs and provides information and assistance to help develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources essential for success.

Rural Youth Loans are available as direct loans only and have a maximum loan amount of \$5000. Loans may be made to individuals who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H club, FFA or local vocational instructor. Individuals must be at least 10 but not more than 20 years old.

Emergency Loans assist farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in areas declared by the President as disaster areas or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster or quarantine area.



For more information contact Leslie Wills at the Ottawa County FSA Office, Telephone number (616) 842-5852 ext 2. More information may also be obtained at www.fsa.usda.gov then click Farm Loan Programs.



Real Estate for Sale – Visit the following web site <http://www.resales.usda.gov> for government owned farms, houses, lots & buildings.

Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. You must notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we

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.

eGov Customer Registration Process

Did you know you can verify what payments you've received from FSA (referred to as the "Customer Statement"), sign up for DCP and request LDP payments from your home computer?

1. The first step is to obtain your "Level 2 Authorization" by accessing your website of interest:
 - USDA Customer Statement <http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
 - Electronic LDP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/eldp_default.htm
 - Electronic DCP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm
2. Create an online user profile and apply for Level 2 access
3. Respond to the verification e-mail within 7 days of receipt.
4. Visit the County Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.
5. You will have access to Level 2 applications within one hour after your profile has been activated.



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 FSA Office in person or by phone.

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. Dept of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling any FSA Office.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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, audio-tape, 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.