



November 2007

## Allegan County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

Issue 3

**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](http://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

**December 3-** Final date to  
submit COC Election Ballots

**January 31, 2008-** Request  
2007 Wool and Mohair  
Loans and LDP.

**March 15, 2008** - Final date  
to purchase NAP coverage  
for most 08 spring planted  
crop.

**March 31, 2008** - Final Date  
to request 2007 Wheat Loans

### Federal Holidays Office closed

**Nov. 22** - Thanksgiving Day

**Dec. 25** - Christmas Day

**Jan. 1** - New Year's Day

**Jan. 21** - Martin Luther  
King Day

**Feb. 18** - President's Day

### NONINSURABLE CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by an eligible cause of loss such as damaging weather, adverse natural occurrences, or a condition related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production at 55% of the average market price.

#### **How to apply?**

Eligible producers must file CCC-471 (Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Application for Coverage) in the FSA administrative office serving the county or counties where their acreage is located no later than the application closing date established by the State.

#### **What does it cost?**

Producers shall pay a nonrefundable service fee in the amount of \$100 per crop per administrative county; or \$300 per producer per administrative county not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer.

#### **Deadline:**

The application and service fee must be filed by the application closing date for the crop. There are various application closing dates throughout the year. Application closing dates coming up soon are February 1st for onions, March 15th for most other spring planted crops and December 1st for honey and maple sap. Contact the Allegan County FSA Office for the application closing date(s) specific to crops you are growing. Coverage cannot begin until 30 days after the coverage is purchased and the crop is planted.

#### **Crop Reporting:**

To remain eligible for NAP, you must annually report the crop including; type and variety, crop location, producer shares, date the crop was planted, type of practice used and intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once harvested, the production must be reported.

#### **What if the crop fails?**

When a NAP crop is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local FSA office by completing a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) within 15 calendar days after the natural disaster occurrence or within 15 days from the date the damage becomes apparent. A (CCC-576) Notice of Loss shall be filed for each natural disaster occurrence that may affect potential yield throughout the growing season. Don't lose out on potential benefits by failing to notify FSA at the time of loss.

### 2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who Suffered 35% quantity and 25% quality losses to 2005,2006 and 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as *the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007*. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest.

*Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.*

Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP quantity losses began October 15, 2007. No final signup date has been announced. Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a future date. Over 25% loss of quality will qualify. *Please contact The Allegan County office to schedule an appointment to make application.*

### **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM ( continued )**

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate. FSA includes all harvested production, non-harvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP. The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. CDP requires a 35 percent loss of expected production; therefore, you may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under NAP or RMA coverage. Crops planted by February 28, 2007 are covered under this provision which includes forage, fruit, honey, and asparagus losses are calculated for all of 2007 even though the loss occurred after February 28th. PLEASE NOTE: it may be advantageous to have NAP and or INSURANCE in the future. A Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is part of this disaster legislation. LCP compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between **January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007**. Producers must choose only one year to receive benefits, 05 or 06. This summer's drought is not covered under this legislation. You must have had a loss of pasture and/ or have receipts of purchased extra feed.

### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION and COUNTY COMMITTEE ADVISOR**

Ballots for the 2008 COC election were mailed November 2, 2007. The deadline to return the ballot is December 3, 2007. All eligible voters listed on our FSA records that reside in **Casco, Lee, Cheshire, Trowbridge, Otsego, Gun Plain, Martin, and Waston** should have received a ballot in the mail. The elected position is for a three year term which will begin on January 1, 2008. The ballots will be opened on December 6, 2007.



#### **Seeking Nominations for County Committee Advisor**

We are currently seeking nominations for a minority advisor to the County Committee. The duties of this position include meeting with the Committee members, offering suggestions, and advising on issues that come before them. Anyone interested in the position should submit a short narrative about themselves to the FSA office by January 8, 2008. The term will become effective March 1, 2008. Remember, you may nominate yourself or another producer.

### **MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS and LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP's)**

Commodity loans are available *with or without* participation in the DCP program; however, ***crops must be reported***. A producer must maintain beneficial interest in the crop for the length of the loan. Also, it is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the commodity in farm storage through the term of the loan. Nine-month loans are available when crops are harvested. There are two types of loans, farm-stored and warehouse-stored. Different rules apply to each type. The loan rate is the rate for the county where the grain is stored. The producer must maintain beneficial interest in the grain under loan. The November interest rate is 5.125%. For crop year 2007, marketing assistance loans are available for wheat through March 31, and corn and soybeans through May 31. Provisions of the loan program state that a loan cannot be disbursed until a lien search is completed, necessary lien waivers are obtained, and the UCC-1 is on file.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If sales proceeds are needed to repay the loan, you MUST request a CCC-681-1 (Marketing Authorization) **prior** to moving your grain. *Market Loan Repayments* are an option that allows you to use cash to repay a commodity loan at the lesser of the posted county price (PCP) or principal plus interest. If terms and conditions of the loan are violated, liquidated damages could be assessed, the loan could be called, and/or it could be required to repay the loan quantity involved in the violation. Also, a producer could face criminal prosecution under federal law.

### **NEW PROGRAM COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES**

Beginning with 2007 instead of the county office selecting individual farms, contracts, loans, etc. for spot check, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using statistical sampling. All programs will be spot checked for the selected producers.

#### **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 thru January 31, 2008. 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.





## YOUR VOICE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008.

Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

**2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**  
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## REPORTING CHANGES

It is important to remember to contact the office with any record changes that may have occurred. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- Address – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.
- Direct Deposit – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information is updated immediately.
- Development – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- Owner/Operator Changes – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators, should be reported as soon as possible.
- Farm Operating Plan – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person” and/or “actively engaged” determinations.
- Update AD-1026 – When you pick up new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program payments.

## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency provides credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources including: Operating Loans, Farm ownership, Beginning farmers, Youth loans, Guarantee loans and **Emergency loans**.



### Emergency Loans Due to Disaster Designation

Allegan County has been declared an agricultural disaster area, making farmers immediately eligible for USDA / FSA production loss emergency loans. The primary natural disaster area designation is due to losses caused by drought that occurred April 1, 2007 and continuing. This designation makes qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest production loss emergency loans, providing eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have until July 7, 2008 to apply for the loans to help cover part of their losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merit, taking into account the extent of loss, ability to obtain other credit, security available and repayment ability. For more information Allegan County producers can contact Leslie Wills, Farm Loan Manager at (616) 842-5852 ext. 2 (Ottawa County FSA). More information may also be obtained at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) then click Farm Loan Programs.



### **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 the following website:
  - USDA Customer Statement <http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
2. Create an online user profile, responding to the verification e-mail within 7 days of receipt.
3. Visit your local County FSA Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.

**\*\*\*Please remember once sign up begins it is helpful to call and make an appointment!**



### **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, 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.*