

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WESTERN U.P. BALED NEWS

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OFFICE HOURS 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
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2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



The results of the Baraga Area County FSA Committee elections for 2007 were as follows:

LAA 3 Joseph E. Robillard was elected for a three (3) year term and will represent the producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA3) which is Baraga County. Brenda Turunen is the first alternate.

Congratulations to Joseph Robillard in LAA 3 for being elected to the Baraga Area County Committee and to Brenda Turunen being elected as first alternate.

The Baraga Area FSA staff and COC wish to thank the Baraga County voters who took the time to vote.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Sign-up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began on October 1, 2006 and runs through June 1, 2007. If you miss the June 1, 2007 deadline you still can sign-up no later than September 30, 2007 and will be considered late-filed and will be assessed a late filed sign up fee of \$100.00.

The DCP program provides payments to eligible producers who enroll into the program each year. This will be the last year for the DCP program. So call us or stop by the office before June 1, 2007.

As the name implies, Direct and Counter Cyclical Program provides two (2) kinds of payments:

Direct Payments: These are guaranteed payments on farms with commodities bases such as barley, corn, oats, oilseeds and wheat. Producers may elect to receive their direct payment in one or two payments. Producers who elected to receive two payments will receive their advance direct payment (equal to 22 percent of the total) in December of the fiscal year. These producers will receive a final direct payment the following October. Producers who elected to receive a single direct payment will also receive their payment in October.

Counter-Cyclical Payments: The 2002 farm bill added counter-cyclical payments, which provide support counter to the cycle of market prices as part of a "safety net" in the event of low crop prices. Counter-Cyclical payments for a commodity are only issued if the effective price for a commodity is below the target price for the commodity. Target prices for each commodity are as follows:

Commodity	Unit	2004-2007
Barley	Per bushel	\$2.24
Corn	Per bushel	\$2.63
Oats	Per bushel	\$1.44
Wheat	Per bushel	\$3.92
Oilseed	Per hundredweight	\$10.10

Certification or report of all acreage of all cropland on your farms is needed before final payments can be issued. The final certification date for 2007 is July 15, 2007.

If you are interested in signing up for 2007 DCP please do so before June 1, 2007 to save yourself a \$100.00 late fee. Stop in at our office or call 906-353-8225 to sign-up.

2006 DISASTER APPROVED

Nancy Dietz, the State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Michigan announced on November 15, 2006 that Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties have been designated as natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought that occurred June 1, 2006 through September 20, 2006.

Conditions in these counties qualified farm operators eligibility for low interest emergency (EM) loans from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA Service Center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures. Please contact our office at 906-353-8225.

RECORD CORRECTIONS

There have been numerous record changes that have occurred in the last year. Before we complete any 2007 applications, we will need to update your records. If land has been sold or you are no longer operating a rented farm please contact us as soon as possible so that we can keep your records up to date. If you are clearing or adding cropland to your farming operation please notify us immediately. Altering a parcel of land that has been designated as a wetland can jeopardize your program participation. Also, producers are reminded that any changes to your bank or account should be updated and changed with us as soon as possible. Payments will be made electronically to the bank and account that you have indicated until you update your records. If you have changes please take care of them now prior to us beginning our payment cycles.

COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Evelyn H Palosaari	COC Chairperson	Leona Delene	Temporary Office
Gary L Hughes	COC Vice Chairperson	Tammy Clisch	Program Technician
Joseph E. Robillard	COC Member	Michael Applekamp	County Executive Director
Sheila F Perttula	COC Member		
John D Koski	COC Member		

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