



January 2007

Barry County News

Barry County FSA
1611 S. Hanover St..
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-8037 (phone)
269-945-5530 (fax)

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

County Committee
Kenneth Osborne
Tom Eckert
Darrell Newton
Nianne Jarrard

Staff
Charlie Mater
Kathy Kulikowski
Julia Leslie
Claude Smith, Field Asst.
Mark VanBuren, CED

Dates To Remember

January 15, February 19
Office Closed for Federal
Holidays

March 30
Last day to request loans
on 2006 wheat, oats

April 28
Trout opener

June 1
Deadline to enroll in 2007
DCP Program without
penalty



COC ELECTION RESULTS

Tom Eckert has been elected to the County FSA Committee to represent Carlton, Woodland, Hastings, and Castleton Township. His term will run January 2007 to December 2009.

ELIGIBILITY FOR 2007 PROGRAMS

FSA is reviewing eligibility for all 2007 programs, including CRP. Producers will be asked to complete new basic eligibility paperwork the first time they are in the office for 2007. In most cases the paperwork can be completed in about 15 minutes. Larger operations, partnerships, joint operations, DBA's, and Corporations may take longer. 2007 payments cannot be issued until all forms are filed. Please plan ahead and visit the office early to avoid delays in payments.

ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY FOR 2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

Producers can now enroll farms in DCP for the 2007 crop year. Farms must be enrolled by June 1, 2007 to avoid a late filing fee of \$100 per farm.

COMMODITY LOAN AVAILABILITY DATES

The final day to request loans or LDPs for 2006 commodities are as follow:

- Wool – January 31, 2007
- Wheat, Oats – March 31, 2007
- Corn, soybeans – May 31, 2007

GRAIN UNDER LOAN – Please contact the office before moving any grain under loan. This includes moving grain to other storage structures not listed on the loan

agreement. Removing grain under loan by feeding or selling without first obtaining a marketing authorization is a violation of

the loan agreement. Loans could be called and financial penalties equal to 10% of the loan could be imposed. Eligibility for future loans could also be affected. Marketing authorizations can be obtained over the phone. If you have to move grain over a weekend/holiday, that is permissible, as long as you contact the office first thing the next business day.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

With the retirement of Farm Loan Manager Dave Steeby, Eaton and Barry County Farm Loan Programs are now being handled by John Anton, Farm Loan Manager in Ionia County ((616) 527-2098, john.anton@mi.usda.gov). Barry County borrowers should be sending their Farm Credit Program payments to the Ionia County FSA office 431 Swartz Ct., Suite 300, Ionia, MI 48846

DISASTER DESIGNATIONS

Eaton and Barry counties have been determined eligible for low interest emergency loans from FSA due to severe weather in the spring of 2006. Emergency loan applications will be received through July 9, 2007 for qualifying physical and production losses. Please contact John Anton, Farm Loan Manager at (616) 527-2098 for more information.

NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATE

Measurement Service rates have been updated to recover County Office costs to perform the service. The new rates are \$30 basic fee plus \$16 for the first hour/\$8 for each additional half hour, with a one hour minimum. The hourly rate will be rounded to the nearest half hour after the first hour.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN
USDA FARM PROGRAMS**

COUNTY COMMITTEE ADVISOR

The County Committee Advisor position was created to add representation to the County FSA Committee from underserved groups who traditionally have not served on COCs. Anyone interested in serving on the County Committee as an advisor can contact the County Executive Director at mark.vanburen@mi.usda.gov , or the County FSA office for more information.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency provided credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources including:

- Operating loans for financing machinery, livestock, crop inputs, debt refinancing
- Farm Ownership loans for farmland, buildings, or improvements
- Down Payment Farm Ownership loans for beginning farmers
- Guarantee loans made by local lending institutions with the assistance of a guarantee from USDA for the lender to extend credit when normal lending requirements are not met
- Youth loans to assists youngsters in starting profitable ventures while serving as an introduction to credit and financing
- Emergency loans when the area becomes an approved disaster area and losses exceed 30%

Contact John Anton, Farm Loan Manager (616) 527-2098 for more information on FSA's Farm Loan Programs.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Civil Rights Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 541, 300 7th Street, SW, STOP 9410, Washington, D.C., 20024, or call 202-720-5212 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.