



October 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

**November 12,**  
**November 22**  
**December 25**  
**January 1**  
Office Closed for Federal  
Holidays

**December 3**  
Last day to return COC  
election ballots

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) FOR 2005, 2006, 2007 LOSSES NOW UNDERWAY

This program provides benefits for quantity and quality losses suffered in **2005, 2006, or 2007 crops planted before February 28, 2007.** Producers applying for benefits in more than one year will only receive benefits for their most beneficial year. Only producers who purchased crop insurance or NAP coverage for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Losses must have exceeded 35%. The payment rate is set at 42% of normal price. Payment limit for the CDP is \$80,000 per person.

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. This summer's drought is not covered under this legislation.

## NEW PROGRAM COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

Beginning with 2007 instead of the county office selection 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.

## FARM RECORD CHANGES

Please report all farm record changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Many producers assume FSA automatically updates farm records with new owners. We can only update farm records when we are informed of the change by the farm's owner or operator.

## 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, loss, and production reports are required to be filed timely.

## 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.

## 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, or if you have any questions.



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

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Ballots for the County Committee election to fill the seat representing Baltimore, Maple Grove, Barry, Johnstown, and Assyria Townships will be mailed to voters in early November. Please return your ballots by December 3.

**FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

Producers in the County are eligible for low interest loans to cover losses due to storms experienced this summer, including the tornado of August 24. This designation makes available low interest physical loss Emergency Loans. These loans will be available until June 5, 2008. Producers should contact John Anton, Farm Loan Manager (616) 527-2098 for more information on FSA's Farm Loan Programs.

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

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](mailto:mark.vanburen@mi.usda.gov) or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-887-8339.

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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.