



JULY 2007

# Branch County News

**Branch County FSA**  
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Coldwater, MI 49036  
517-278-2725 (phone)  
517-278-5176 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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

**County Committee**  
Curt Albright  
Neil Carpenter  
Kevin Miller  
Jill Bucklin

**Staff**  
Kelly Gruner, PT  
Joyce Hook, PT  
Linda Snyder, PT  
Connie Wilkinson, PT  
Ernie Davenport, FA  
Marlene Marshall, CED

## Dates To Remember

**July 16**  
Final date to certify crops & CRP

**July 31**  
Nomination & Election Mtg.

**August 1**  
Deadline to submit nomination forms

**August 3**  
Deadline to enroll DCP contracts without late fees.

**September 3**  
Labor Day – Office Closed

**October 8**  
Columbus Day – Office Closed

**Ongoing**  
Farm Storage Facility Loans

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

## DCP Sign-up Extended to August 3<sup>rd</sup>

The DCP Sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical program (DCP) has been extended to August 3<sup>rd</sup> for this year only. Anyone signing after August 3<sup>rd</sup> but before September 30<sup>th</sup> will pay a \$100 late fee per farm.

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY**

## Crop Certification Fast Approaching

Producers are required to report all of their cropland, including the field planting date, in order to qualify for several program benefits. These benefits include:

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

The acreage reporting deadline was **July 2** for fall-seeded crops (including wheat) and is **July 16** for all other crops and CRP.

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. The final planting dates for Branch County are June 5 for corn and June 15 for soybeans.

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

## FSA's 2007 National Compliance and Spot Check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact our office for additional clarification.





**REMEMBER** – August 3<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for DCP Sign-up.  
Anyone signing after August 3<sup>rd</sup> but before September 30<sup>th</sup>  
will pay a \$100 late fee per farm.

### Zero Rates for Wheat, Barley, and Oats

Final 2006 Counter-Cyclical (CC) payment rates for wheat, barley, and oats are zero because their effective price exceeds their respective target prices. The effective price equals the direct payment rate, plus the higher of the national average loan rate or the national average farm price.

The national average prices received by producers for contract commodities can be found on the FSA Internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

### Outreach

FSA is constantly striving to seek persons from minority, female and under-represented groups to ensure they are informed of the agricultural services and programs that our office administers. Any person of legal age who has an interest in a farm as an owner or operator is eligible to participate in FSA programs and the FSA County Committee election. If you or someone you know may be eligible for our programs or would like to be included in our mailings, please contact our office for more information.

### Continuous CRP Sign-up



The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. CRP participants plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. FSA, in return, provides participants with annual rental payments, financial incentives and cost-share assistance.

Environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time, under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

**The following practices are eligible for continuous CRP:**

- Contour grass strips
- Filter strips
- Grass waterways
- Riparian buffers
- Living snow fences
- Shelterbelts
- Wetland buffers
- Wetland restoration wildlife habitat buffers





### **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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/eldp_default.htm)
  - Electronic DCP Signup [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp\\_default.htm](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 email 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.



**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 Ave. SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Special accommodations** will be made for the physically handicapped, visually impaired or hearing impaired upon request. If accommodation is required, contact Marlene Marshall, County Executive Director, at (517) 278-2725 ext. 2.