



August 2007

Calhoun County News

**Calhoun County FSA
USDA Service Center**
13464 Preston Dr. Suite 100
Marshall, MI 49068
269-781-4263 ext.2
269-781-3199 (fax)

Web Sites
www.fsa.usda.gov/
FSA Forms
<http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>

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

County Committee
David Bosserd, Chairperson
Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair
Carleton Irving, Member
Rita Reincke, Advisor

Staff
Kim Bates, Program Tech.
Bonnie Baxter, PT
Georgann Detty, PT
Ellen Kiessling, PT
Rose Hoffman, PT
Jerry Motz, Field Asst.
Phill DeYoung, FLM
Elizabeth Lake, CED

Dates to Remember

Aug. 1 - CRP Managed Haying & Grazing starts

Aug. 3 - DCP enrollment deadline.

Aug. 18 - FSA will be at the Calhoun County Fair-Sportsmen's Day

Sept. 5 - CRP Managed Haying & Grazing ends

Sept. 30 - Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2008 alfalfa and mixed forage

CRP - Managed Haying & Grazing

Managed haying & grazing is the planned harvesting of forage from Conservation Reserve Program acres. Specific CRP practices are eligible for managed haying & grazing and only if the managed haying & grazing is included in the Conservation Plan. The activity must also be requested and approved by the FSA County Committee, before any haying or grazing takes place. Normally haying & grazing of cool season grasses and legumes is allowed only between August 15 - September 5, however *because of the dry conditions this year the Michigan State FSA Committee has authorized Managed haying & grazing of cool season grasses beginning August 1, 2007.*

- Managed grazing and haying must be included in the Conservation Plan (CPO) prior to any such activity being started;
- Cool season grasses will not be grazed or hayed lower than three inches;
- Warm season grasses may also be grazed and hayed, but not lower than eight inches and from August 1 to August 20;
- A 25 percent reduction in the annual payment will be assessed on the grazed or hayed acres in the year it occurs;
- The same acres may not be grazed or hayed more than once every three years;

- Consider grazing or haying no more than 1/3 to 1/2 of the CRP acreage in any given year to allow an annual harvest of forage from CRP acreage on a rotational basis, while providing cover for wildlife.

CONTACT THE FSA OFFICE FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Crop Acreage Reports

The deadline to file acreage reports for 2007 crops and land uses was July 16, 2007. Producers are required to report all their cropland, whether planted, in conservation practices or idle, in order to remain in compliance with certain USDA programs. These programs include: DCP, CRP, marketing assistance loans/loan deficiency payments and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program benefits. If you missed the July 16th deadline you may still file an acreage report to remain in compliance; however, now it will cost \$46 per farm to file a late-filed crop acreage report. It could mean \$100's or even \$1,000's of lost benefits if you don't report!

Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be electronically transferred into your bank account, unless you have a legitimate hardship reason for still receiving your payments by check. You need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments will be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

- To qualify for NAP a producer must have timely purchased NAP coverage
- A natural disaster must have reduced the expected production of the crop by more than 50 percent;
- September 30, 2007 -The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for the 2008 alfalfa and mixed forage crop;
- The deadline for the 2007 alfalfa and mixed forage crop was September 30, 2006;
- November 20 – Sales closing date for apples, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, raspberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb and strawberries;
- December 1 – Sales closing date for honey and maple sap;
- An application for Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 days of the weather event causing the loss, or within 15 days after it becomes evident there is a loss to the crop.

Marketing Assistance Loan Rates for 2007 Crops

Corn	\$1.88/Bushel	Barley	\$1.69/Bushel
Oats	\$1.34/Bushel	Soybeans	\$4.93/Bushel
Soft Red Wheat	\$2.49/Bushel	Soft White Wheat	\$2.34/Bushel



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 or 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 Elizabeth Lake, County Executive Director, at (269) 781-4263 ext. 2.

Calhoun County FSA
13464 Preston Dr. Suite 100
Marshall, MI 49068

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 19