



November 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.
Phillip DeYoung, FLM
Elizabeth Lake, CED

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1-Sales closing date for honey and maple sap
Dec. 3-Last day to return voted ballots for committee election
Dec. 6-Ballots counted, 9 AM
Dec. 25-Christmas Day, Office Closed
Jan. 1- New Year's Holiday-Office Closed
Jan. 21-Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday-Office Closed

2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as *the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007*. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest. 2007 spring planted crops are not eligible for this program.



Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

A producer may be eligible for CDP if the crop losses resulted from any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, freeze, tornado;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake or flood; or
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive wind, excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer:

- was prevented from planting a crop;
- sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the expected production of a crop; or
- sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the value for value-loss crops.

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate.

FSA includes all harvested production, non-harvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP.



The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

A participant may receive benefits for crop losses for only one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop years. Payments will be made not later than 60 days after a producer files completed applications necessary for FSA to determine producer eligibility for benefits.



The sum of the value of the crop not lost (if any), the CDP payment received and any crop insurance payment or payments received under NAP for losses to the same crop cannot exceed 95 percent of what the crop's value would have been if there had been no loss.

Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP quantity losses began October 15, 2007. No final signup date has been announced. Signup for CDP quality losses is expected to start in January. *Please contact the Calhoun County office to schedule an appointment to make application.*



2005-2007 LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, including losses because of blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.



Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible. Also, producers in primary counties (and contiguous counties) that received an approved Administrator's Physical Loss Notification (APLN), when the APLN is directly associated to a natural disaster designated by President Bush, are eligible.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, swine, goats or deer that:

- have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period;
- have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and
- have not been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Eligible producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period and must be a citizen of, or legal resident alien in, the United States. They also must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of eligible disaster events during the applicable disaster periods. The feed lost or additional incurred feed costs must have been intended for use with eligible livestock.

FSA will calculate LCP payments by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. The national payment rate represents 61% of the cost for corn needed to maintain the specific livestock for 30 days, as determined by FSA. Producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LCP. An individual or entity whose average adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million for the three years immediately preceding the calendar year for which benefits are requested is ineligible for LCP benefits unless 75% or more of their income is from agriculture.



In addition to a completed application filed during the application period, livestock producers applying for LCP must submit adequate proof that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs:

- were for the claimed eligible livestock;
- occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during an eligible disaster period in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested;
- other supporting documentation necessary to determine the applicant's eligibility. Supporting documents may include, but are not limited to, verifiable purchase records, veterinarian records, bank of other loan papers, rendering truck receipts, FEMA records, National Guard records, written contracts, production records, IRS records, property tax records, private insurance documents, sales records or similar documents.

Signup for the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program began September 10, 2007. No final signup date has been announced. ***Please contact the Calhoun County office to schedule an appointment to make application.***

EMERGENCY FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

All 83 Michigan counties have been designated as a natural disaster area and eligible family farmers may qualify for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) physical loss loans due to losses caused by **drought** that occurred April 1, 2007 and continuing. This designation makes qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest production loss loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have until **July 7, 2008** to apply for the loans to help cover part of their losses.



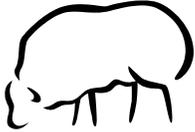
In addition, 26 contiguous Michigan counties, including Calhoun, were named disaster areas because of storms with **tornadoes, hail and high winds** that occurred from July 3 through August 29, 2007. Eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. EM loan applications will be accepted through **June 5, 2008** for severe physical losses only.

Calhoun County producers should contact Phill DeYoung at 269-781-4263 ext. 2.

2007-CROP COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 6.000% and the loan rates are as follows:

County	Soft Red Wheat	Soft White Wheat	Oats	Corn	Soybeans
Calhoun Loan Rate	\$2.49/bu	\$2.34/bu	\$1.34/bu	\$1.88/bu	\$4.93/bu
Final Loan Availability Date	March 31	March 31	March 31	May 31	May 31



WOOL & MOHAIR LOAN & LDP DEADLINE: JAN. 31, 2008

The final date to request a loan or LDP on wool or mohair harvested in 2007 is January 31, 2008. The market price has been below the loan rate, so there has been a loan deficiency payment in effect.

MARKET GAIN REPORTED ON IRS FORM 1099-G

Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, FSA/CCC will report producer market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan, whether the producer repays the loan with cash or uses commodity certificates in exchange of the outstanding loan collateral. The market gain will be reported on IRS Form 1099-G. IRS Bulletin 2007-33, Notice 2007-63, dated August 13, 2007, provides answers to frequently asked questions about the tax treatment of market gain associated with repayment of CCC loans under the non-recourse marketing assistance loan (MAL) program.

CALHOUN COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 2, which includes Leroy, Newton, Fredonia, Athens, Burlington, and Tekonsha Townships, should have received their ballots for the election. Please follow the directions on the ballot and return it to this office. It must be postmarked or returned to this office no later than December 3, 2007. Ballots will be counted December 6, 2007 at 9 AM in the conference room of this building.



THANK YOU CARLETON IRVING!

Carleton Irving, from Newton Township, has spent nine years dedicated to the Calhoun County FSA Committee and providing leadership to the employees of the FSA office. The limit is three, three-year terms. Therefore Carleton has met the term limit. Carleton's commitment to the County Committee and years of farming experience will really be missed.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE ADVISOR

The Calhoun County Committee is seeking candidates interested in serving as a County Committee Advisor. Advisors serve as a voice for socially disadvantaged farmers to ensure fair representation. Socially disadvantaged members include women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives. Persons interested in serving as an Advisor to the County Committee should be a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

Advisors are responsible for increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions.

The appointment is for one year and becomes effective March 1, 2008. Interested persons should submit a short narrative about themselves to the FSA office by January 11, 2008.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CALHOUN FARM SERVICE AGENCY
13464 PRESTON DR. SUITE 100
MARSHALL, MICHIGAN 49068



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2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008.

REPORT ALL FARM CHANGES

Remember to report all farm changes to our office, including land purchases, land sales, death of landowner, change of owner, etc. We do not receive these updates from the court-house.

This is a good time to get leases from your landlords.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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, audio-tape, 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 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.