



Cass Farm Service Agency NEWSLETTER

Cass County FSA
1127 E. State Street
Cassopolis MI 49031
269-445-8641
269-445-0619 FAX

County Committee
Michael Gordon, Chairperson
Dave Grabemeyer, Vice-chair
Brad Barnett, Member
Patrick Duff, Advisor

Staff
Marcia J Collins, CED
Kay Strom, PT
Barb Steensma, PT
Judi Kidman, PT
Zelda Cloud, PT

FSA Website
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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



2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The FSA County Committee (COC) elections were completed in December. We would like to thank all those who took the time to vote for the individual of their choice and a great big thank you to those who were willing to serve on the committee! The following people were elected to represent LAA #3 (Jefferson, Calvin, Ontwa, Mason and Porter Townships): Michael Gordon - COC Member, Carl Grohowski - 1st Alternate to COC, Mitch Bramley - 2nd Alternate to COC. At the January Organizational meeting, Michael Gordon was elected as Chairperson, Dave Grabemeyer Vice-Chairperson, and Brad Barnett member.

ANNUAL DCP SIGNUP

Producers and/or owners are required to sign a contract each year in order to receive payments from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Several farms have not been enrolled yet for the 2007 DCP.

The deadline to sign up has been extended to August 3, 2007, for this year only. If you have not yet signed up, please call today to schedule your appointment. Please inform us of any changes you will be making, when you schedule your appointment, including:

- Will you continue to rent the same property that you rented last year?
- Are you changing the structure of your operation? For example converting from an individual to a partnership or Limited Liability Company (LLC)?
- Are the shares within the operation changing, or is one of the shareholders leaving the operation?
- Will you be selling or purchasing land?
- Are you going to divide or combine any land?
- Will you be planting fruits or vegetables?



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RESTRICTIONS

Planting fruits or vegetables on base ac may adversely affect your program benefits.

If you plant these crops on a farm that does not have a fruit and vegetable history, payment reductions, and severe penalties may be assessed. Please contact this office before you plant or lease land for production of fruits, nut trees, or vegetables.

PLANTING DATES REQUIRED!!

Producers are required to report ALL of their cropland in order to qualify for most payments from the Farm Service Agency. **Planting dates will once again be required, so please keep track of these dates and bring them with you when you report your crops.** Planting dates are also required for hay and pasture ground!!

The deadlines to report your crops are as follows:

- June 30, 2007 - Fall-seeded small grains, including rye, speltz & wheat.
- July 15, 2007 - All crops, except fall-seeded small grains.

If you are not planting an annual crop, you still need to report your hay, idle ground, pasture, CRP, etc., before the July 15, 2007 deadline. Call today for your appointment!!

If you are planting a crop, you will need to report your crops after they are all planted. You will need an appointment to certify!!



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CASS FARM SERVICE AGENCY
1127 E STATE STREET
CASSOPOLIS, MICHIGAN 49031

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

PROGRAM OUTREACH

FSA is constantly striving to seek out 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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 31	Deadline to request Corn and Soybean loan or LDP
Aug 3	Deadline to sign-up for DCP without paying a fee
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local County Office in person or by phone.

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, 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 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.