



# Clinton County FSA News

## Clinton County USDA Service Center

Clinton County FSA  
2343 N US-27  
St Johns, MI 48879  
989-224-3720 (phone)  
989-224-1033 (fax)

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

**Website**  
www.fsa.usda.gov

**County Committee**  
Ronald Arens  
Doug Eldridge  
Jim Voisinet

**County Committee Advisor**

Melva Kelley

### Office Staff

Jan Eckelbarger  
Valerie Gillespie  
Amanda Sanderlin  
Karen Schaefer

### Field Reporter

Mark Walsh

### County Executive Director

Anita M Perkins

### Farm Loan Manager

Tim Neuhardt

### County Committee Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

## Karen Schaefer Retires

On June 29th Karen Schaefer will come to work for the last time. After 26 years of service to the Farm Service Agency / ASCS, Karen has decided to retire.

Through the years, Karen has been responsible for such programs as Annual Conservation Program (ACP), Wheat and Feed Grain program, Commodity Loans, Office Administration and Claims and Receivables.

It is always difficult to lose a valuable member of your team. Karen's experience, program knowledge and sincere concern for the farmers will be greatly missed. Even though we may fill the position, we will not be able to replace the person.

To celebrate Karen's retirement we will be taking her on the Michigan Princess Riverboat. Karen will enjoy the Big Band Dinner Cruise as we say bon voyage.



### Retirement Open House for Karen

To thank Karen for her dedication and service to Clinton County farmers and FSA, everyone is welcome to attend an Open House we will be having in her honor.

**Date:** Friday June 29, 2007  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
**Place:** Clinton County FSA Office  
**Refreshments will be served.**

If you can not attend, but would like to send Karen a card, we will have a card box at the office for her. Just address it to the office.

## 2007 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

We ask that you visit the office or if you have a lot of farms (call for an appointment) to certify your crops when you have completed planting.

Final Date to report Crops...

**June 30th** - fall seeded crops (wheat)

**July 15th** - all other crops and CRP

Please keep in mind that after July 1 the office will be one person short.

## Eligibility for 2007 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Form CCC-633EZ is required to request an LDP on all crops. Page 1 of the form must be submitted **before** harvest of the crop. The best time to complete this is when you are certifying your crops.

Page 2 of the form needs to be completed to request the LDP payment. **Either** prior to losing beneficial interest (title, risk and control) if you want to lock in your LDP rate while the grain is in storage **OR** after the grain has been sold and you are submitting your marketing receipts.

## Bank Account Changes

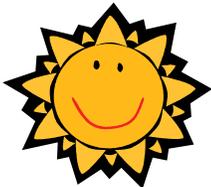
To avoid any delay in program payments, please remember to notify us if you change the bank account that we have on file at the office.

## CRP Land Ownership Changes

We are asking individuals to timely notify the office if there is a change in ownership of land due to sale or death. CRP contracts need to be revised within 60 days of the change to avoid penalties.

**Dates to Remember**

- June 29** Karen Schaefer retires
- June 30** Last day to report fall seeded crops
- July 4** Office Closed Independence Day
- July 15** Last day to Report spring seeded crops and CRP
- August 3** Last day to enroll DCP contracts



***Unauthorized Disposal of Grain Being Used for a Commodity Loan***

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and could impact the ability to obtain future commodity loans.

A marketing authorization can easily be obtained by visiting the office or making a quick phone call.

Multiple authorizations can be issued if you have made arrangement to sell your grain to more than one purchaser.

***Highly Erodible and Wetland Provisions***

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your FSA or NRCS representative before you begin work.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382(TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

***Special Accommodations***

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Anita Perkins at 989-224-3720 ext 106.