



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
Bonnie Hettler
Amanda Sanderlin
Karen Schaefer

Field Reporter

Mark Walsh

County Executive Director

Anita M Perkins

Farm Loan Manager

Tim Neuhardt

County Committee Meetings

3rd Wednesday of each month.

County Office Update

It has been a while since our last newsletter so it is time to catch you up to date.

County Committee Elections – **Ron Arens**, of Westphalia, was re-elected to the County Committee. He will serve a 3-yr term.

Committee Advisors – **Melva Kelley**, of Ovid, was appointed as a Minority Advisor to the County Committee.

We would like to thank **Doreen Schneider** for her 9 years of service as the minority advisor for the farmers and landowners of Clinton County.



Office Employee Needed

Clinton County FSA Office will be accepting applications for a permanent full time Program Technician until May 21, 2007.

A program technician is responsible for carrying out office activities and administering assigned FSA programs to area farmers and landowners.

Applications and a copy of the full vacancy announcement are available at the office

Sign-up Extended for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Producers who still need to sign up for the 2007 crop program now have until August 3, 2007 to enroll without paying the \$100/farm late fee.

2007 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to certify planted acres by the final dates listed below to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) – **all cropland** must be certified.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insurable Crop Program – NAP
- Wool Program

Acreage Reporting Dates:

June 30 – for fall seeded crops (ie wheat)
July 15 – all other crops and CRP

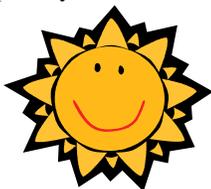
A \$25.00 per farm late fee will be charged for all farms certified after the above dates.

We will not be taking appointments for certification. However, producers with a lot of farms are encouraged to call ahead so we can have your farm folders pulled. If you need a copy of your maps in advance, give us a call.

Please Note: Crop program (DCP) and Crop Certification have different deadlines.

Dates to Remember

- May 28** Office Closed
Memorial Day
- 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 crops and
CRP
- August 3.**Final day to
enroll in DCP without late
file penalty



Measurement Service Rate Increase

In the past, individuals who requested a paid for measurement service were required to pay \$22.00 for the farm visit and an additional \$1.00/ bin or \$.20/acre measured.

The measurement service fees have been changed to help cover the actual cost FSA incurs to complete a measurement service.

Measurement services will now be based on the time it takes to complete the measurement service. Time includes travel, measuring and calculation.

Basic Farm Rate	
(includes 1st hour)	\$ 46.00
Each additional ½ hour	\$ 8.00

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Maintenance

Program participants are required to maintain the approved cover on CRP ground through the life of the CRP contract. Maintenance such as mowing, burning, or spraying should be done after August 1 and in accordance with your conservation plan.

You may have a situation where weeds, insects, or undesirable species (woody vegetation) would adversely impact the approved cover if it is not timely taken care of (prior to August 1). A maintenance request form is available, at our office, to handle these situations. Your request will need to be reviewed by a technical agent and approved by the County Committee before you start.

Mowing for cosmetic or recreational purposes is prohibited.

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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.