



# 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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

**County Committee  
Advisor**  
  
Melva Kelley

**Office Staff**  
  
Linda Applebee  
Amanda Conklin  
Jan Eckelbarger  
Valerie Gillespie  
Doreen Schneider

**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.



## Crop Disaster Program

A national disaster program has been developed for producers who suffered 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop losses caused by damaging weather and related conditions. 2007 losses are limited to those crops that were planted or prevented from planted before February 28, 2007. The damages must be in excess of a 35% loss of production or 25% for quality losses.

**Sign-up:** Began October 15, 2007

**Eligible Crops:** are those crops eligible to be insured by Federal Crop Insurance or NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program). In the year of the loss, the crop must have had insurance purchased under one of the above programs.

**Eligible Producer:** owner/operator who shared in the risk of producing the crop and who was entitled to share in the crop upon harvest. Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) rules apply.

**Ineligible Losses:** include drifting herbicide, wildlife, losses after harvest or during storage, poor management practices, poor farming practices or losses due to lack of market.

**Payment Rate:** all eligible crops will receive 42% of the county payment rate.

**Payment Limitations:** Crop Limit -there is a 95% cap on each crop. This means that crop insurance + value of production not lost + disaster payment can not exceed 95% of the total crop value.

Person Limit – \$80,000 per “person” as defined by your farming operation.

**Program Applications:** producers can apply in any or all years in which they meet the eligibility requirements. However, the program only allows the producer to receive benefits in one year. After all the data is entered, the computer will determine the producers most beneficial year.

**What To Bring With You:** when you come to complete your disaster application, please bring the following information with you:

- land preparation information
- planting information
- seed, fertilizer, herbicides – (variety, rate/amount applied)
- planting dates
- for some insurance policies (GRIP, GRP, AGR, CAT) where no production records were provided, we will need verifiable and/or reliable production records to go with your application.

## Appointments Are A Must:

If you are interested in applying for the crop disaster program, you will need to call and schedule an appointment.

## County Committee Election

The County Committee Election ballots have started to hit the mailboxes. Individuals interested in running for the Committee had the opportunity to submit a petition. Only one petition was received. Due to the possibility of write-in candidates, it is still important to vote if you would like to have this person represent your area on the Committee.

Ballots will be opened on December 5, 2007 at 9:30 am.

Clinton County FSA Office  
2343 N US-27, St Johns, MI 48879

**Dates to Remember**

- Nov 12** Office Closed – Veteran’s Day
- Nov 22** Office Closed – Thanksgiving
- Dec 3** Last Day to vote or mail ballot for COC Election
- Dec 5** Ballots opened at 9:30 am at FSA Office
- Dec 25** Office Closed - Christmas
- Jan 1** Office Closed – New Year’s Day

**2007 Commodity Loans**

The loan program is a good tool to access the needed funds to pay land rent, seed & fertilizer, fuel or other operating bills that may come due prior to the marketing of this year’s crop.

Nine month commodity loans are available for corn, wheat, oats, soybeans and minor oilseeds grown in 2007.

Loan rate/ bu.: Wheat – red \$2.44 / white \$2.32, Corn - \$1.88 and Soybeans - \$4.92

Producers offer their harvested commodity as collateral. Grain is stored on the farm or at an approved warehouse. To be eligible, grain must meet grading factors and remain in good condition through the life of the loan.

You must request a marketing authorization before you sell any grain under loan and pay back bushels before you feed it.

Loans will be paid back using principal plus interest OR the posted county price which ever is to your advantage.

Loan interest rate for November is 5.125%. Interest rate changes on all commodity loans in January to the rate effective for that month.

**Office Staff Update**

To bring everybody up to date:

**Doreen Schneider**, from Westphalia, was hired in July. She will be responsible for the facility and commodity loan program, wool program and milk program.

**Amanda Sanderlin**, was recently married and now goes by Amanda Conklin.

**Linda Applebee**, from Elsie, was hired on a temporary basis to help Jan with farm records. She will be working with land ownership changes, farm transfers, and farm reconstitutions (farm combinations and divisions)

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**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.