



# Genesee/Shiawassee *FSA News*

December 2007

*Farm Service Agency*

**USDA Service Center**  
Genesee County FSA  
1525 N. Elms Rd.  
Flint, MI 48532  
(810) 230-8766 (Phone)  
(810) 230-2404 (FAX)

Monday – Friday  
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

**Staff**  
Sharon Graham  
Karla Klasek  
Jean Ann Tarrant  
Teresa Fejes

**Genesee Committee**  
Chad B. Morey  
James R. Navidonski  
Terry Spezia  
Shauna Weil – Advisor

**USDA Service Center**  
Shiawassee County FSA  
1900 S. Morrice Rd.  
Owosso, MI 48867  
(989) 723-8263 (Phone)  
(989) 723-8491 (FAX)

Monday – Friday  
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

**Staff**  
Louri Miller  
Larry Godfrey  
Nancy Vogl  
Angela Case  
Bernadette Schneider

**Shiawassee Committee**  
Nicholas A. Zdunic  
John T. Stasa  
George Zmitko I  
Julia Birchmeier – Advisor

**Field Assistant**  
William Darnell

**Farm Loan Manager**  
David Hemker  
Phil Sweeney

**County Director**  
Jayne A. Van Ness



## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency Crop Disaster Program has been implemented to assist producers who purchased crop insurance and/or Non Insured Assistance Coverage and who suffered a crop loss due to damaging weather or other related conditions for crop years 2005, 2006 and/or 2007. (For 2007 losses, crop(s) must have been planted prior to February 28, 2007, to qualify.) Losses must be in excess of 35% for quantity losses or 25% for quality losses.

**Sign up began October 15, 2007.** No deadline has been announced as of this date.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) has provided each office with information on producers who purchased crop insurance in one or more of those years, as well as production for those individuals qualifying for losses through RMA. These applications will be processed first and individuals will be contacted to finalize paperwork.

The County Office will then contact all other individuals by letter regarding the program requirements and the information needed to determine overall eligibility for the program. Once you have gathered all needed information, **please contact the county office to schedule an appointment.**

Producers can apply in any or all years in which the eligibility requirements are met. Payments will be issued based on the most beneficial year.



## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election ballots have been mailed to eligible voters in the townships of: Fairfield, Middlebury, Owosso, Perry, Sciota and Woodhull for Shiawassee County.

In Genesee County, ballots were mailed to eligible voters in the townships of: Clayton, Flushing, Montrose, Mt. Morris and Vienna.

December 3, 2007, is the final date to vote. All ballots must be received or post marked by this date to be considered valid.

Ballot counting will be held at the FSA Office on the following dates:

Shiawassee County – Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM  
Genesee County – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

Please take the time to vote. FSA County Committees play a huge roll in implementing Farm Programs in a fair and equitable manner to all individuals.



## DISASTERS

A number of disaster related conditions have affected both counties this year. Reports have been submitted with the following designations given:

- S2628 – Drought
- S2631 – Frost/Freeze (Shiaw Co)
- N-917 – Tornadoes/excess wind
- S2636 – Tornadoes/hail/rain/wind

Emergency Loan provisions have been implemented. Contact FSA for additional details.



The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your thoughts. 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.**

### **CREP SIGN UP CONTINUES**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program remains in effect for all of Genesee County and a portion of Shiawassee County under the Saginaw Bay Watershed area designation.

Participants enroll environmentally sensitive acreage along ditches, stream banks and wetland areas by establishing buffers and/or filter strips. Whole and partial field wetland restorations are also eligible along with field windbreaks. Participants receive enhanced cost share reimbursement (50% Federal – 50% State of Michigan) up to set not-to-exceed rates. Enhanced annual rental payments along with signing incentive payments and practice incentive payments are also authorized under this program.

A deadline for this program has not been announced. However, an acreage limitation does apply. If you are interested in this program, please contact your local FSA office to begin the process. Bill Keuchmeister and Donna Flag, CREP Technicians for Genesee and Shiawassee Counties, will be more than happy to assist you.

### **UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSAL OF LOAN COMMODITY**

Grain under loan that has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form without prior written authorization from the FSA staff is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and it may affect a producer's ability to obtain future farm-stored loans. Always call the FSA Office before any loan grain is fed, moved or sold.

### **DAIRY DISASTER**

Eligible dairy producers can sign up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) program beginning Monday, December 3, 2007.

The DDAP-III program will provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered dairy production losses as a result of natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007. Producers will receive direct payments for eligible losses to help relieve economic injuries suffered by the dairy industry in disaster counties throughout the U.S.

The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers for production losses that resulted from lost herds, dumped milk when plants were closed or containment equipment damaged by a natural disaster. Additionally, power outages, fuel shortages, and infrastructure damage may have temporarily interrupted the flow of dairy products to markets.

USDA will calculate payments to eligible producers by multiplying the eligible pounds by the average price received for commercial milk production in the affected areas during the disaster for 2005 and 2006, and for the months of January and February 2007. If the total amount of funding is insufficient to compensate eligible producers for losses, then USDA will pay losses at two levels in an effort to more equitably distribute the limited funds and maximize the effectiveness of the program. For more information, a fact sheet is posted online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **2008 FARM BILL PROVISIONS STILL NOT AVAILABLE**

Producers wondering when the 2008 Farm Bill Provisions will be announced will have to wait a little longer. No details have been received regarding the 2008 program provisions. We will announce the program details when they are released. If major changes result from the previous farm bill, the county offices may hold an informational meeting to discuss those changes.

## NAP NOTICE

The Noninsured Crop Disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. The deadlines to purchase coverage are:

December 1st – for honey and maple sap

February 1st – for onions

March 15th – for most other NAP crops

## MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

Marketing assistance loans are available for those that qualify. **The deadline to apply is March 31, 2008, for small grains and May 31, 2008, for corn, soybeans and sunflowers.** These 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.

The term of the loan is nine months. To be eligible for marketing assistance loans and LDPs producers must: comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; report how they use their cropland acreage on the farm; have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodities meet CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Contact our office for loan rates and to apply for a commodity loan.

## PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

You may be aware of recent news concerning personal information used on the internet and in written documents. You may be assured that through responsible office procedures and privacy policies, we are taking every precaution to safeguard your personal information.



## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producers who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or cost break down of new equipment requested
- Covers farm storage, grain handling equipment, grain dryers, etc.
- Pay a \$45.00 application fee
- Provide to FSA an Income Statement and Balance Sheet for review of financial capabilities
- Purchase crop insurance on the crops grown in the county where the facility is constructed
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility to ensure FSA security is not at risk

Interest rates are locked in for the seven year period of the loan. Annual payments are due starting one year from the date of disbursement. Loan funding is set at 85% of the total cost and will be disbursed after completion.

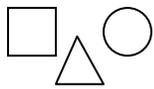
## OPERATION CHANGES

Recently gone through a name change? Are you now operating as a partnership or a trust? Maybe you've recently, or not so recently, become an LLC. We need to know. The name you do business as should be the same as the name that appears on your payment sheet from FSA. If it doesn't match please let us know.



## WOOL AND MOHAIR LDPS

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are available for 2007 wool and mohair. Make sure you have a CCC-633EZ on file before you lose beneficial interest in your 2007 Wool. You can obtain this form online or from our office. **The deadline to apply for payments is January 31, 2008.**



## WETLAND DETERMINATION IDENTIFIERS

As part of the USDA's continuous effort to use digital mapping technology to increase efficiency, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have recently revised the symbols used to identify wetland determination locations on FSA maps.

Wetland points used to be identified by blue dots. These points will now be represented by red, yellow and green symbols to more clearly define the type of wetland determination. For more information and a complete fact sheet on this topic go to: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and click on FSA fact sheets in the selection box on the right-hand side. Then select Conservation Programs under topics and find the Wetland Determination Identifiers Fact Sheet dated September 19, 2007.



## NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

The National Animal Identification System, better known as NAIS, is being implemented by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This program has been implemented to register your livestock into the NAIS website at the following address:

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>

We encourage all individuals to participate in this effort to reduce the spread of pests and diseases that could jeopardize our agricultural industry.

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.

