



June 2007

Genesee/Shiawassee FSA News

USDA Service Center
Genesee County FSA
1525 N. Elms Rd.
Flint, MI 48532
(810) 230-8766 (Phone)
(810) 230-2404 (FAX)
Hours
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)
Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Staff
Louri Miller
Larry Godfrey
Nancy Vogl
Angela Case
Bernadette Schneider
Debra Walker

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

2007 Crop Certification

The 2007 certification of crops and/or land uses is fast approaching. The deadline to report those acres are as follows:

- June 30th, all fall seeded crop acreages.
- July 15th, all spring seeded crop acreages and/or land use.

Acreage reports are required for the following farm programs:

- **Direct/Counter Cyclical (DCP)**
- **Non Insured Assistance (NAP)**
- **Conservation Programs**
- **Loan/LDP benefits**

Refund of monies received will be required if this is not completed.

Those farms not timely certified will be assessed a \$30.00 late file fee, plus hourly rate charge per farm.

At the time of certification, planting dates will be required. Please have that information available when visiting the county office. Please remember to make an appointment to ensure the fastest possible service during your visit to the county office.

Crop Insurance Requirements

If you have purchased crop insurance, you are also required to certify your crop acreages with your agent by their publicized deadline dates.

Direct/Counter Cyclical (DCP) Program Sign-up Extended

As a result of the Farm Service Agency program web sites having difficulties, the deadline to enroll farms into the 2007 DCP program has been extended to the following date:

- **August 3rd, 2007.**

All persons earning DCP benefits must sign the contract prior to August 3rd. Farms enrolled or contracts signed after that deadline will be assessed a \$100.00 late file fee per farm. No sign ups will be accepted after September 30th, 2007.

Advance payments were authorized for those farms enrolled and requesting an advance payment. All signatures and/or cash rental agreements must be on file for the 2007 program year to be eligible for those advance payments.

The advance payment rates authorized are as follows:

- Wheat - \$0.1144/bu.
- Oats - \$0.00528/bu.
- Soybeans - \$0.0968/bu.
- Corn - \$0.0616/bu.
- Barley - \$0.0528/bu.

Final payments will be issued after October 1st, 2007.

The new "2007 Farm Bill" is currently under discussion/review. We will notify you of program information as it is received.

FAILED ACREAGES

You are reminded that any acreage that fails due to conditions beyond the producer's control must be reported **within 15 days** of the occurrence of the disaster and prior to destruction of the crop acreages. By reporting these failed acreages timely, farm visits can be performed to verify conditions. These reports will remain on file for future reference in the case of a crop disaster program or future farm bill changes.

PREVENTED PLANTING CLAIMS

Prevented planting claims must be filed within 15 days of the final planting dates of the crop requesting acreage credit. Those dates are as follows:

- Wheat – October 25th
- Oats – May 20th
- Sugar Beets – May 20th
- Corn – June 5th
- Soybeans – June 15th
- Dry Edible Bean – June 25th

The county office will determine previous history when verifying and/or approving prevented planting history credit.

DAIRY PRODUCER'S PLEASE TAKE NOTE.....

MILCX Program coming to an end.....

The MILCX (Milk Income Loss Contract Extension) program sign up ends September 30, 2007. Production evidence must be submitted for those months that payments were authorized no later than November 1, 2007 to be eligible.

Farm Changes

All changes in farm ownership, operator or cropland must be reported to FSA to ensure that farm records are the most up to date as possible. Farm ownership changes must be substantiated by a deed or tax bill showing ownership. Records must be updated prior to enrollment into any farm program.

Reconstitution of farm records are allowed for the following reasons:

- Combinations - Farms owned and operated by the same individual must be combined.
- Divisions - Are categorized under the following and must be requested in advance:
 1. Estate Method - The division of bases of a parent farm among heirs.
 2. Designation by Landowner - The division of bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.
 3. DCP Cropland Method - The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.
 4. Default Method - The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution was initiated.

DEADLINE TO REQUEST ANY RECONSTITUTIONS IS AUGUST 1ST, 2007.

Transfer of farm records

Farm records can be transferred to another Farm Service Agency county office for the following reasons:

- FSA County Office has closed - Producer's have the option to transfer their farm records to an adjoining county where an FSA office is located or allow the farm to remain in the county assigned as the Administrative County for the county office that is closed. A 60 day time frame has been established to request these transfers.
- The land of a farm is physically located in more than one county - The farm operator and County Committee's must agree on the county where the farm shall be administratively located. Administrative county changes shall only be made to counties that are contiguous to the county where the farm is physically located.

Facility Loan Program

Individuals who wish to purchase new farm storage, drying and/or grain handling equipment may apply for the facility loan program. The process is as follows:

- Producer contacts their local FSA office and provides them with original quotes for all equipment, electrical and excavating needs. FSA will determine qualifying needs and the producer will pay a \$45.00 application fee.
- Form FSA-185, application will be completed, signed and initialed by the individual. The producer will also sign a request for a "Credit Report" for financial purposes.
- The county office will set up an appointment for the producer to meet with the Farm Loan Manager responsible for that county office once the credit report is received to prepare a "Financial Analysis" for the county committee.
- The CED will visit the farm where the bin structure and/or equipment will be placed to conduct an "Environmental Analysis".
- The application is completed and prepared to be presented to the County Committee. The producer will be notified of the interest rate locked in and the amount of funding approved. (The funding amount will be 85% of the total cost of the structure. Funding is disbursed after the structure is completed).

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, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all 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.

COMMODITY LOAN PROGRAM

The commodity loan program is available to all individuals producing a qualifying commodity.

Loans must be requested by the deadline dates established:

- January 31st, Wool/Mohair
- March 31st, Wheat, Oats, Barley
- May 31st, Corn, Soybeans

Other crops are available such as other oilseeds, grain sorghum, chick peas, honey, etc. Contact FSA for further details on those crops.

2007 Loan rates have been established as follows:

Genesee	Shiawassee
Barley - \$1.69/bu.	\$1.69/bu.
Oats - \$1.34/bu.,	\$1.34/bu.
Red Wheat - \$2.44/bu.	\$2.44/bu.
White Wht. - \$2.36/bu.	\$2.36/bu.
Corn - \$1.86/bu.	\$1.86/bu.
Soybeans - \$4.95/bu.	\$4.96/bu.

Loans are for a nine month period and must be stored in eligible storage structures or an approved warehouse. Interest rates are determined monthly at disbursement and will remain in effect until January 1st of the calendar year following the disbursement month.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Genesee County will be holding elections this year in the following townships:

- LAA#1, Townships of Clayton, Flushing, Montrose, Mt. Morris & Vienna

Shiawassee County will be holding elections this year in the following townships:

- LAA#1, Townships of Fairfield, Middlebury, Owosso, Perry, Sciota & Woodhull.

Persons interested in being placed on the ballot shall file a nominating petition, Form FSA-669A no later than August 1, 2007.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAMS REMAIN AVAILABLE

Both counties have provided the Michigan State FSA Office with updated soil rental rates to be used in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program enrollments. Those increased rental rates may take effect sometime in July, however sign up continues in those programs as anticipation of the benefits both environmentally and economically continue to improve. The counties have seen changes in the process and are encouraged with the results. These results are a direct reflection of the producer's awareness of their requirements.

Producer's interested should contact their local Farm Service Agency office to begin this process.

Program Technician's, Genesee County

Sharon K. Graham
Karla A. Klasek

Jean Ann Tarrant

Program Responsibilities

Farm Changes, Transfers, MILCX Program, Administrative
DCP Program, Payment Limitation, Sod/Swamp,
Conservation
Loan, LDP, Compliance, Certification

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Payment Limitation, Sod/Swamp, Loan, LDP
Farm Changes, Transfers, DCP Program
Conservation Program, MILCX Program

County Executive Director's schedule for both offices is as follows:

- Monday, Wednesday's and every other Friday - Shiawassee County
- Tuesday, Thursday's - Genesee County

County Committee Meeting schedule:

- Second Wednesday of the month - Shiawassee County
- Second Thursday of the month - Genesee County