



Farm Service Agency

November, 2007

Gladwin/Clare County News

USDA Service Center

Gladwin/Clare FSA
1501 N. State St.
Gladwin, Mi. 48624
989-426-9461 (phone)
989-426-4914 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Dick Rankin, CED
Jessie Engelhardt, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jerry Spickerman, FLM
Betty Garrett, FLO

County Committee

Albert Wentworth, Chairman
Ken Brown
Dick Brushaber
Mark Iciek
Randy Sheehan

Advisor

Linda Freier

**ATTENTION
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
ABOUT
PARTICIPATION IN
USDA FARM
PROGRAMS
ENCLOSED**

County Committee Elections

Ballots for the 2008 COC election will be mailed November 2, 2007.

The deadline to return ballots is December 3, 2007. All eligible voters listed on our FSA records that reside in Clare County will receive a ballot in the mail. Albert Wentworth will end the last year of his third and final consecutive 3-year term and Ken Brown is up for re-election. These elected positions are for three year terms which will begin on January 1, 2008 for LAA-4 and LAA-5.

The candidates listed on the ballot are Ken Brown and Jim Eberhart. The ballots will be opened and counted on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in this building.

2008/ NAP Coverage Deadlines

The final deadlines for 2008 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are as follows:

November 20, 2007 for coverage on all perennial crops such as asparagus, strawberries, and ALL FRUIT.

December 1, 2007 for coverage on honey and maple sap.

Any changes to crop acreage should also be reported at this time.

Continuous coverage is available for all 2007 NAP Participants. If you were a NAP participant in 2007 and wish to cover the same crop(s) for 2008 it is possible to sign up without making a trip to the office. Just mail your payment in for the amount listed on your continuous coverage letter before the final application deadline and your crops will be covered for the 2008 crop year.

For those wishing to enroll in the program, or those wishing to make changes to their crop coverage, please contact the office in Gladwin as soon as possible.

Coverage is also available to producers of perennial crops that did not have coverage in 2007. The fee is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per producer/per county in which the records are administered.

(Please note that the provisions of the current Crop Disaster Program is only available to producers that had NAP or RMA coverage on their crops.)

2005/2006/2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Program signup for Quantity loss started on October 15, 2007 and is available to producers that obtained crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage. The ending date has not been announced. The Quality loss program will be available at a later date.

CDP benefits calculate at the higher of the State historical yield for the crop or your APH. Be prepared to provide planting dates, weed control, soil preparation, and fertilizer use for the year(s) in which you are applying for disaster benefits.

CDP requires at least a 35 percent loss of expected production; therefore, you may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under NAP or RMA coverage.

The maximum amount of CDP payment to a producer is \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Crops planted by February 28, 2007 are covered under this provision which includes forage, fruit, honey, and asparagus losses calculated for 2007. You do not need to wait until the 2007 loss is determined to apply. 2005/2006 applications can be processed. When the 2007 production is available through RMA of NAP, the adjustments will be made.

A producer may apply for benefits in all three years but the benefit will pay only for the year with the highest benefit.



Final DCP Program Payments

The 2007 DCP final direct payments have been issued. The signup dates for 2008 have not been announced due to the pending 2008-2012 Farm Bill. This is a good time to get written cash lease agreements signed with your land owners, assuming the next farm bill will require it. As a reminder, we can only accept statements prepared between the operator and the land-owner or land owners signatures on the DCP contracts will be required.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) 2005/2006

Unlike the CDP program, you did not have to have insurance to apply for benefits under this program

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible to apply. Clare County is eligible for crop year 2005 or 2006. Gladwin County is eligible for 2006.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must:

- *Be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that;*
- *Have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period*
- *For 2005 the beginning date is April 1, 2005*
- *For 2006 the beginning date is June 1, 2006.*
- *Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation.*
- *Producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock.*
- *Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage, or; incurred additional feed costs.*

Signup has started with no ending date announced.

Contact the office prior to making your visit to apply and we will send you the LCP worksheet to aid you in gathering the required information to make application for benefit.

Farm Loan Programs

Loans Available for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged: FSA has special programs and reserved funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, the FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial FSA management program
- For real estate type loans; does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size

Entity members must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and women.

Rural Youth Loans: FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing products. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program at work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact Jerry Spickerman or Betty Garrett for more details.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) 2007 Contract Payments

- All 2007 contract payments have been issued to eligible producers.
- There is no 2008 Regular Sign-up approved.
- Continuous Sign-up is in affect for eligible practices.

Contact the office for details of Continuous Sign-up provisions. CREP sign up is still ongoing at least thru the end of this calendar year

USDA eGOV Initiative

The USDA's eGOV Initiative enables applicants to register online, find forms and complete applications via the internet. You will also find information about farm programs and farm loan programs. We encourage you to register online at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone at (989) 426-9461 ext. 2.

Reporting Changes

It is important to remember to contact the office with any records changes that may have occurred. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- **Address** – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.
- **Direct Deposit** – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information is updated immediately.
- **Development** – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- **Owner/Operator Changes** – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- **Reconstitutions** – changes that requires farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators, should be reported as soon as possible.
- **Farm Operating Plan** – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person” and/or “actively engaged” determinations.
- **Update AD-1026** when you plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can affect all program payments for the year in which you may have made these changes without prior notification and the proper determinations made by NRCS.



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.



YOUR VOICE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008.

Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

www.agcensus.usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Emergency Loans – 2007 Crops

Area producers have had their crop production affected by drought, and spring frost/freeze weather conditions.

Farm Service Agency is in the process of collecting damage assessment information to determine areas where a disaster designation will be requested.

When a county receives a disaster designation, producers will have 8 months to apply for FSA Emergency farm loans.

Emergency loan eligibility requirements include: A 30% loss of normal production in an essential farm enterprise, or a qualifying physical loss; and the inability to obtain commercial credit. Insurance and other compensation are deducted to determine the amount of loss. For additional information on FSA farm loans contact Jerry Spickerman or Betty Garrett.

A designation has been announced for our two counties for severe physical losses caused by storms, hail, and high winds that occurred from July 3, 2007 through August 29, 2007. Emergency loans to help cover losses are available through June 5, 2008.

A designation has been requested for the 2007 drought.

Dates to Remember	
Nov 12 th	Office Closed to observe Veterans Day
Nov 7 th	Regular Session COC Meeting open to the public
Nov 20 th	Final date to purchase NAP coverage on 2008 perennial crops.
Nov 22 nd	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec 1 st	Final Date to purchase NAP coverage on Honey or Maple Sap
Dec 3 rd	Final date to return 2008 COC ballots



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.