



November 2007

# Huron County News

Huron County  
USDA Service Center

Huron County FSA  
1460 S Van Dyke  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
989-269-9549 (phone)  
989-673-8421(fax)

Hours  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee  
Debra Kubacki  
Bruce Maurer  
Ken Koroleski

Kay Lumsden  
County Executive Director

Bob Catherwood  
Farm Loan Manager

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

## **2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)**

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as *the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007*. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest.



*Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.*

A producer may be eligible for CDP if the crop losses resulted from any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, freeze, tornado;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake or flood; or
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive wind, excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer:

- was prevented from planting a crop;
- sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the expected production of a crop;
- Or sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the value for value-loss crops.

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate.

FSA includes all harvested production, non-harvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP.



The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

A participant may receive benefits for crop losses for only one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop years. Payments will be made not later than 60 days after a producer files completed applications necessary for FSA to determine producer eligibility for benefits.



The sum of the value of the crop not lost (if any), the CDP payment received and any crop insurance payment or payments received under NAP for losses to the same crop cannot exceed 95 percent of what the crop's value would have been if there had been no loss.

Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP quantity losses began October 15, 2007. No final signup date has been announced. Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a future date. ***Please contact your local county office to schedule an appointment to make application.***



## 2008 Farm Bill



Washington D.C. does NOT have a new farm bill in place at this time. Congress is still working on the laws for the new farm bill. We can not sign you up for the 2008 Program AT THIS TIME. When we have more information, it will be passed on to you by way of newspapers, newsletters, farm publications and radio broadcasts.

### **MILC X**

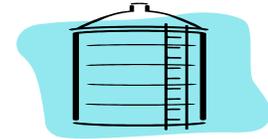
The MILC and MILC X programs have come to an end with the closing of the farm bill. It is no longer necessary to send to the county office a copy of your milk production.

### ***Farm the Best Conserve the Rest***



At this time, there is no scheduled Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up bid period for new whole field enrollments scheduled for 2008. However, the Huron County FSA is still able to take applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). Both the CREP and CCRP pay substantial annual rental payments and focus on taking out of production the most environmentally sensitive cropland acreage. Typically, these acreages are not the most productive from a crop production standpoint. CREP contracts are for 15 years and include extra financial incentives and payments from the State of Michigan. The CCRP contracts are for 10 to 15 years, contain added financial incentive payments, but do not provide payments from the State of Michigan. You will be working with our Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service through the enrollment process. In most cases, a paid for measurement service is required for acreage to be enrolled in these programs.

We are also currently processing the 2007 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP, CCRP & CREP) annual rental payments. If you have not received your payment as of today's date, please contact our office for you may need to update your Producer Eligibility forms. All Farm Service Agency offices across the Country must have producers up date these forms prior to such payments.



### ***Commodity Loans***

Commodity loans for eligible commodities continue to be available. The loan rates for 2007 crops are as follows:

Corn	\$ 1.89
Soybeans	\$ 4.91
Barley	\$ 1.69
Oats	\$ 1.34
Wheat	\$ 2.44 (Soft Red Wheat)
Wheat	\$ 2.37 (Soft White Wheat)

The final availability dates for 2007 crop loans are:

March 31, 2008 for Wheat, Barley & Oats and  
May 31, 2008 for Corn and Soybeans.

### ***County Committee Elections***

County Committee elections will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, which includes Huron, Gore, Bloomfield, Rubicon, Sigel, Sandbeach, Paris, and Sherman townships this year. Bruce Mauer is up for election. Ballots will be mailed in November and need to be returned to this office by December 3, 2007. Newly elected representatives will take office on January 1, 2008. Please exercise your right to vote.

### ***Payment Limitation/Eligibility***

USDA payments and benefits are subject to payment eligibility such as "actively engaged in farming" requirements ; cash-rent tenant rule; permitted entity restriction; foreign person rule; average adjusted gross income limitation and payment limitation provisions.

Documents used to determine eligibility are reviewed annually. It is a participant's responsibility to timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and or supporting documentation, as applicable. Failure to do so could affect eligibility or limitation.

## **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 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 Non-Ag purposes, such as 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.

AD-1026 - update when you pick up new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program payments.

## **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>.

## **NEW MAPPING SYSTEM**

Huron County Office has been promising new maps for a couple of years now. Just for your information, we are still in the process of getting the maps updated in our new system, which is more accurate than our old photos. Our plan is to be sending the updated maps to all owners and operators, for review, sometime in the new 2008 calendar year.



## **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](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local County Office in person or by phone.



***Highly Erodible and Wetland Provisions (AD-1026)***

- 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?

**Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

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.

Dates to Remember	
November 2	COC election Ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 12	Veteran's Day, Office will be closed
November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday, Office will be closed
December 3	Last day to return Ballots
December 5	County Committee Election held at County Office
December 25	Christmas Holiday, Office will be closed
January 1	New Years Day, Office will be closed



PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND BOUNTIFUL HARVEST SEASON

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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.