



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOUR FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE FOR INGHAM AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES

Newsletter #1 – December 22, 2006

Farm Service Agency

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **January 31, 2007** – Last day to request 2006 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs
- **March 15, 2007** - Last day to purchase NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
- **March 31, 2007** - Deadline for 2006 Wheat and Honey loans and LDPs.
- **May 31, 2007** - Final date to request 2006 Corn and Soybean Loans and LDPs.
- **June 1, 2007** - Deadline to sign 2007 DCP Contracts without late charge. Also deadline to submit farm changes for 2007.
- **June 30, 2007** - Deadline to report fall seeded Wheat.
- **July 15, 2007** - Deadline to report spring seeded crops.

ONGOING SIGN-UPS

Farm Storage Facility Loans, Continuous CRP.

Ingham County FSA Office

8:00 am-4:30 pm

521 N. Okemos St

Mason, MI 48854

517-676-4644 Ext. 2

FAX - 517-676-7011

Farm Loan Program

Dave Hemker, Farm Loan Manager

Phone: 989-723-8263 Ext. 2

Staff

JoAnna Rogers, PT

Jenifer Taylor, PT

Karen Vozarik PT

Ralph Huss, Field Asst.

Combined County Committee

William Chamberlain

Vern Elliott

Albert Gramer

Ron Humrich

Jeff Oesterle

Eddie Thomas, Advisor

County Executive Director

Ronda K. Bozek-Smith

2007 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

Offices Closed

Jan. 1New Year's Day

Jan. 15...Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

Feb. 19...Presidents' Day

May 28... Memorial Day

July 4.....Independence Day

Sept. 3....Labor Day

Oct. 8.....Columbus Day

Nov. 12...Veterans' Day

Nov. 22...Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 25....Christmas Day



PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE VISITING THE INGHAM COUNTY FSA OFFICE

Call 517-676-4644 Ext. 2

WOOL AND MOHAIR



The final date to request a loan or LDP on wool or mohair harvested in 2006, is January 31, 2007. Since the market price has been below the loan rate there has been a loan deficiency payment in effect.

The 2007 wool and mohair season is starting soon. Sheep owners must come in to sign a CCC-633EZ prior to selling their 2007 production. Please call for an appointment.

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. Revised: 6/8/2005

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

DCP is the annual commodity program with established base acres and yields. **In order to participate in DCP, producers must sign contracts every year.**

This year there are some changes to the program.

- Advance direct payments are reduced to **22% of the total payment**. Producers may choose the month in which they will receive their advance payment. The final payment of 78% will be issued in October 2007. Although the **total of the payments is still the same**, producers need to remember that their advance payment will be less than it was last year.
- **Eligibility papers will be verified, and updated if necessary, at the time of sign-up.** These papers may include:
 - A farm operating plan – CCC-502 and related legal documentation
 - An average adjusted gross income certification – CCC-526
 - A certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions – AD-1026
 - Power of Attorney papers for authorized signature authority – FSA-211

Because of these changes, sign-up may take longer than in the past. Be sure to call the office to schedule an appointment. 517-676-4644

DCP REMINDERS

- Report any changes in your farming operation. This includes changes in ownership and operators.
- Farm changes that require farm reconstitutions should be reported as soon as possible so your records can be updated prior to your 2007 sign-up
- All farmers who produce a crop on the base acres are entitled to share in the DCP payment. **Landowners who do not have a risk in growing the crop are NOT eligible to receive a DCP payment.**
- The operator will need **one** of the following:
 - a signed rental agreement **or**
 - the landowner's signature on the DCP contract **or**
 - If the operator rented the land last year, a cash rent certificate may be used. For this option, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until July 1, 2007
- 2007 Counter Cyclical advance payments may be requested. These payment rates vary depending on market prices. **Remember, producers must refund any advance counter cyclical payments that exceed the finalized payment rate.** This can happen when actual market prices exceed the projected market prices used in determining advance counter-cyclical payments.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR ENTITIES

If producers are operating as a Joint Venture, a General Partnership, a Limited Partnership, a LLC, a Corporation, a Trust, or an Estate, they are considered an entity. **Entities must provide FSA the following documentation:**

- a copy of a legal documents that established the entity and the document that established signature authority
- a Federal Tax ID# of the entity if one has been assigned
- a legal document showing all members of the entity and their shares in the entity

Power of Attorney papers, FSA -211, may be required if signature authority is not specified in the legal documents. **Some forms may require the signature of each individual member of the entity.**

General Partnerships must provide a current Articles of Partnership or an IRS document such as Form 1065 (Schedule K-1) showing members and their respective shares. Articles of Partnership must be renewed every 5 years and filed at the courthouse.

No 2007 payments will be issued until we have the proper documents on file. If you have any questions please call our office at **517-676-4644**.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The FSA County Committee Elections were tallied on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

William Chamberlain was re-elected to serve as committee member for 3 years for LAA 1, Ingham County. The first alternate is **Joan Wright**.

Albert Gramer was re-elected to serve as a committee member for 3 years for LAA 4, Livingston County. There was no alternate elected for LAA 4.

Congratulations to our re-elected committee members! We appreciate their dedication and commitment in performing this service for our community. FSA also extends a thank you to those who voted in the COC election. The county committee is a vital part of the FSA county organization. Because of your participation in this process, we continue to have local representation involved in administering the farm programs.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE FEE CHANGES

The rate for a measurement service that includes a farm visit has been changed. The fee is now \$46.00 for the first hour. An extra \$8.00 will be charged for every additional ½ hour of time. Travel time to and from the site will be included when computing hours for the fee.

MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACTS

Payments for MILCX are authorized when the Boston Class 1 milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight. The program was extended through August 31, 2007.

New producers and producers that exceed the 2.4 million pound limit and wish to change the starting month on their contract must come into the office and update their contract. This needs to be done by the 14th of the month **prior** to the month that you are requesting payment. For example, if you wish to change your start date to February 2007, you must request this change by January 14, 2007.

Don't forget to continue to bring in your milk check stubs!
For more information and payment rates, look online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=mpp-mi>

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – NAP

This program helps reduce financial losses due to natural disasters affecting uninsurable crops. The application deadline for Spring planted crops is **March 15, 2007**. All applicable fees must be paid by this date.

CRP Continuous Sign Up

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

To offer land for continuous sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA office. For more information see the CRP Continuous Sign up Program Fact Sheet:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20060601_consv_en_crpcsup06.ht

DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES

Please notify the office if you close or change your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments will be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Happy New Year

Don't forget to sign up for On Line Access! It is easy and will save you time. Apply for Level 2 Access at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS

All eligibility determinations will be reviewed before 2007 payments are issued. See Page 2 for more information.

PROGRAM AND PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

Programs are subject to the following payment limitations per person as determined by FSA regulations:

- DCP: Direct Payment - \$40,000 per crop year and Counter-Cyclical Payment - \$65,000 per crop year
- LDPs and Market Gains: \$75,000 per crop year
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - \$200,000
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - \$50,000 per fiscal year
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - \$100,000 per year

View this newsletter on line with active links! Go to:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=mi&area=home&subject=nele&topic=landing>