



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

Newsletter #3 – November 9, 2007

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
Karen Vozarik, PT
Gretchen Wasper, PT
Ralph Huss, Field Asst.

Combined County Committee

Jeff Oesterle, Chairperson
Joan Wright
Vern Elliott
Gary Hoisington
Terrence Butler
Eddie Thomas, Advisor

County Executive Director

Ronda K. Bozek-Smith



Farm Service Agency

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **November 20** – Deadline to purchase NAP for perennial vegetables and all fruit
- **December 1** – Deadline to purchase NAP for honey and maple sap
- **December 6** – Count ballots, 9:30 a.m., at the county office
- **January 31, 2008** - Last day to request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs
- **March 31, 2008** - Deadline for 2007 Wheat and Honey loans and LDPs
- **May 31, 2008** - Final date to request 2007 Corn and Soybean Loans and LDPs

ONGOING SIGN-UPS

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans**
- **Continuous CRP**
- **On Line Access!** It's easy and will save you time. Apply for Level 2 Access at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>

2007 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS Office Closed

Nov. 12...Veterans' Day
Nov. 22...Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25....Christmas Day
Jan. 1.....New Year's Day
Jan. 21...Martin Luther King Day

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

Call 517-676-4644 Ext. 2

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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.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM



The Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 has recently been announced to provide benefits to those who have suffered at least 35% quantity losses or 25% quality loss 2005-2007 crops. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage (NAP) in the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** *2007 crops must have been planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007.* Producers who incurred quantity losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Sign-up for quantity losses under CDP began Oct. 15, 2007. No deadline to apply has been announced, yet.. **Eligible disaster conditions** must be weather related such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, freeze, tornado, or a condition related to damaging weather. Quality losses will be addressed at a later date. **Call or visit the county office if you feel you may be eligible for CDP benefits.**

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) 2005-2007 has been implemented to compensate producers for weather related feed losses or additional feed costs due to natural disasters. Losses must have occurred between Jan. 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007.

Eligible Livestock are dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Eligible Producers must have owned or leased eligible livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period.

Producers must choose payment for only one year 2005, 2006, or 2007. Sign-up for LCP has begun. Call or visit the FSA office to start the application process.

DCP AND CRP PAYMENTS

We are now mailing DCP and CRP payments to producers for 2007. Those enrolled in DCP will receive 78-100% of the contract amount depending on an advance payment being made. Producers can expect transaction statements in the mail soon.



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 may be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM

Low interest commodity loans are available for eligible crops in storage on the farm or in the warehouse. These are 9-month loans which allow you to hold your grain to avoid typically low prices at harvest. To be eligible for a marketing loan producers must comply with HELC/WC provisions, report crop acreage, have beneficial interest in the commodity, ensure the commodity meets CCC's minimum grade and quality standards.

Loan rates are as follows:

	Ingham	Livingston
Wheat/red	\$2.49	\$2.49
Wheat/white	2.35	2.36
Corn	1.88	1.85
Soybeans	4.94	4.99

COC Election Timeline

- Dec 3rd Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office
- Dec 6th Count ballots at the County Office, 9:30 a.m.
- Jan 1st New committee members and alternates take office

If you feel that you are eligible to vote and are unsure of your voter status with our agency, please call the FSA Office to make sure all farm records on file in our office are updated. This way we can be sure all eligible voters receive ballots.

DCP SIGNUP??

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program expired in 2007. At this time we don't know when a new sign-up will begin for a commodity program. We will continue to wait for news and/or action from Congress and will let you know as soon as we hear something.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

If you are unable to visit your local Farm Service Agency to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Name someone to act on your behalf for authorized FSA administered programs and transactions. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at the office or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms that are obtained and completed outside the USDA office must be notarized.



COC MEMBER ELECTION

The Ingham and Livingston County FSA office is currently holding an election for County Committee members from LAA's 2 and 3.

- **LAA 2** Alaiedon, Aurelius, Delhi, Vevay, Onondaga, and Leslie townships.

Jeff Oesterle, incumbent COC member, appears on the ballot.

- **LAA 3** Bunker Hill, Ingham, Stockbridge, and White Oak townships.

Vern Elliott, incumbent COC member appears on the ballot.

Please become part of the committee election process by exercising your voting rights

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.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or in person with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S.D.A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA Office

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call 517-676-4644, ext2.

THINKING OF TILING OR CLEARING LAND?

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules**. Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026. Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits.



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

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