



Farmer's Digest

Arenac/Iosco County
USDA Service Centers

Arenac County FSA
4490 M-61
Standish, MI 48658
989-846-4565 (phone)
989-846-9641 (fax)

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

Arenac County Committee
Earl Steinbauer
Carl Daniels
Ed Stange

Arenac Advisor
Brenda Golimbieski

Iosco County FSA
190 M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-3842 (phone)
989-362-8382 (fax)

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

Iosco County Committee
Wallace Daniels
Al Erickson
Joe Vohwinkle

Iosco Advisor
Kim Wickert

ATTENTION
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
ABOUT
PARTICIPATION IN
USDA FARM
PROGRAMS
ENCLOSED



2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality 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.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

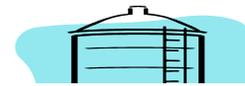
CRP participants: cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.



Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Michigan is August 1. Visit or call the county office staff for more information.

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 Arenac and Iosco County's 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.



Commodity Loans

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

Arenac County:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Corn | \$ 1.81/bu |
| Soybeans | \$ 4.89/bu |
| Barley | \$ 1.69/bu |
| Oats | \$ 1.34/bu |
| Red Wheat | \$ 2.37/bu |
| White Wheat | \$ 2.25/bu |
| Sunflowers | \$8.00/cwt |

Iosco County:

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Corn | \$1.81/bu |
| Soybeans | \$4.87/bu |
| Barley | \$1.69/bu |
| Oats | \$1.34/bu |
| Red Wheat | \$2.35/bu |
| White Wheat | \$2.24/bu |
| Sunflowers | \$8.00/bu |

The final availability dates for 2007 crop loans are:

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

Depending on market prices, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) may be available

County Committee Elections

Elections for both Arenac and Iosco counties will take place this fall for the following LAA's :

Arenac – Mason, Turner, Whitney, Augres-Sims townships

Iosco – Reno, Burleigh, Sherman, Alabaster-townships.

Election ballots have been mailed and must be returned postmarked no later than December 3, 2007

Ballots will be counted on December 5, 2007 at the Arenac FSA Office and in Iosco county on December 6, 2007. The Committees will start counting ballots at 10:00 a.m. on both days.

Program Outreach

FSA is constantly striving to seek out persons from minority, female, and/or underrepresented groups to ensure they are informed of the agricultural services and programs that our offices administer. Any person of legal age who has an interest in a farm as an owner or operator is eligible to participate in FSA programs and to vote in the FSA county committee election process. If you or someone you know may be eligible for our programs or would like to be included in our mailings please contact your local FSA office for more information.

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 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>.



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

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.



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA's loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants could be beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers may have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or may be persons with limited resources.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and Loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are a service of USDA. For more information about these loans or loan eligibility, just contact the FSA county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

| Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|--|
| November 22 | Office closed for the observance of Thanksgiving Day |
| December 3 | Last day to Election Ballots |
| December 25 | Office closed for the observance of Christmas |
| January 1 | Office closed for the observance of New Year's day |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loans |
| Continues | MILC Program |
| Continues | Continuous CRP and CREP |

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.



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.