



Farm Service Agency

Jackson County USDA Service Center

Jackson County FSA
211 W Ganson St
Jackson, MI 49201
517-789-7716 (phone)
517-789-7886 (fax)

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Gaylord Lincoln,
Chairperson
Richard Zenz, Vice-
Chairperson
Douglas Teller, Member

Minority Advisor

Jennie Crittendon

FSA INFO WEBSITE

www.fsa.usda.gov

Staff

Rhonda Sauber, Judy
Horton, Melissa Cripe,
Susan Gray, John
Hancock-Field Reporter,
Steve Videto- Field
Reporter
Russell LaFollette – Farm
Loan Manager
Tamela Smith – County
Executive Director

2007 Loan Rates

The 2007 Jackson
County loan rates are:

- Corn (\$/Bu 1.88)
- Soybeans (\$/Bu 4.99)
- Wheat SW (\$/Bu 2.41)
- Wheat SR (\$/Bu 2.51)
- Barley (\$/Bu 1.69)
- Oats (\$/Bu 1.34)
- Grain Sorghum (\$/Bu 3.33)
- "Other" Oilseed (\$/Cwt
call for rate)

2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program Deadline Extended

Sign-up for 2007 began October 1, 2006 and ends August 3, 2007. You must sign up annually to participate. For any farms that are signed-up between August 3, 2007 and September 30, 2007 there will be a \$100 late-filing fee charged.

Under DCP you must designate shares and sign a new contract each year. Producers are encouraged to have all cash rent statements for their landowners at the time of the appointment. For 2007, advance program payments have changed significantly. A 22% advance of the Direct Payment (your guaranteed payment) can be requested for any month December through September of the program year. The final 78% of the direct Payment will be issued in October 2007 if all eligibility requirements are met. Since advance payments are considerably less than in past years please be aware of this change and make necessary arrangements. Just a reminder: ALL cropland on a farm must be reported each year in order to earn payments. June 30th is the deadline to report wheat and July 15th is the final day for all other crops, forage, and CRP. Program payments can only be earned by persons who have risk in the crop. Participants are required to protect all planted and idle DCP base acres from erosion and weeds throughout the crop year. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's) cannot be planted on base acres unless the farm or producer has FAV history. In cases where the farm and/or producer are eligible, the producer will receive an acre-for-acre reduction in his/her program payment. FAV's include dry edible beans, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, and squash, among others. If no FAV history exists, it's considered a program violation and could cost the producer the DCP payment for the entire farm. Please call to schedule your DCP appointment.

HIGHLY Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency Payments, Farm Loan Program, Crop Insurance and many other USDA programs. This means if you plan to clear a timbered area, expand existing crop areas, convert pasture into cropland or bring any fields that have not been in production for a long time into production, you need to complete a new AD-1026 form and consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Take the time now to make sure your farm is in compliance! Don't wait until the plow hits the ground or the tile machine pulls into the driveway!

Measurement Service Fee Change

The state has adopted a new version of measurement fees from national FSA procedure. This policy will more accurately reflect the costs incurred by the agency for services such as measuring fields and grain bins. A basic farm visit fee will now be \$30 plus \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. Fees will include actual time spent traveling, measuring, and calculating. There will be a charge for a minimum of one hour. The minimum measurement service fee will now be \$46.00.

Election Results for LAA 1 are:

LAA 1 consists of Concord, Hanover, Liberty, Pulaski, Spring Arbor, and Summit townships:

Douglas Teller, Elected to the County Committee (COC)
Arthur Riske, 1st alternate to COC, Chair of LAA 1
Kim Ring 2nd Alternate to COC, Vice Chair of LAA 1

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

2007 Wheat Certifications

We are now certifying Fall Seeded Wheat acres. The final deadline to get this done is June 30, 2007. If an insurance adjuster is going out to appraise any wheat acreage you may want to have the information on file here at the office

Certification Requirements

Program regulations state that any farm earning benefits from USDA must certify all cropland on the farm after planting of crops. July 15th is the final reporting date for all crops except small grains. Certification reported after this date will be subject to a \$46.00 late certification charge. Land sitting in a conserving use or grass cover can be certified at this time. All CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and Grassland participants must certify annually.

Prevented Planting for 2007 Crops

Prevented planted acres means that you were unable to plant a crop on the field. If you plant an alternative crop on those acres, those acres are not considered prevented planting. For example, if you intended to plant oats, but subsequently planted corn on the acres, FSA does not consider those acres as prevented planting. If you were unable to plant all of the acres you intended then you need to take action. You want to make sure you report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report.

If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent **now**. Find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply. Rules vary by program.

If your crop is covered by NAP:

File a notice of loss with the office within 15 days of loss, report the acres by the required NAP crop reporting date.

Spousal Signatures

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county FSA office. This procedure does not apply to the commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Program. Spouses must have an FSA-211 on file to sign commodity loan documents and claim settlements on behalf of each other. Spouses shall not sign an FSA-211, Power of Attorney form, on behalf of the other and shall not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

Please report any address changes, land sales etc that affect your farming operation. We need this information so that we can keep our farm records as up to date as possible.

Foreign Landowners Reporting Requirement

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

EGov Customer Registration Process

Did you know you can verify what payments you've received from FSA (referred to as the "Customer Statement"), sign up for DCP and request LDP payments from your home computer?

1. The first step is to obtain your "Level 2 Authorization" by accessing your website of interest:
 - USDA Customer Statement <http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
 - Electronic LDP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/eldp_default.htm
 - Electronic DCP Signup http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm
2. Create an online user profile and apply for Level 2 access
3. Respond to the verification e-mail within 7 days of receipt.
4. Visit the County Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.
5. You will have access to Level 2 applications within one hour after your profile has been activated.

Farm Record Changes

Report any farming operation changes so that we may keep our records current. Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. You should also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which impact your eligibility for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments as well as other USDA program benefits. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in structure of your farming operation, the addition or removal of farms that you operate, changes in your rental agreements, ownership changes, or changes from agricultural to non-agricultural land uses.

Powers of Attorneys

Power of Attorneys will remain in effect until one of the following occurs:

- Grantor cancels FSA -211 in writing by either of the following:
 - Providing written notification of cancellation of FSA-211 to the County Office
 - Writing "CANCELED" on original FSA-211, and initialing and dating
- Either grantor or appointed attorney-in-fact:
 - DIES
 - Becomes incompetent or incapacitated
 - Is a legal entity, and the entity becomes dissolved
- If FSA-211 is specific FSN's only and applicable FSN's no longer exist.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency loan and grant program

USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$176.5 million in loan guarantees and almost \$11.5 million in grants nationwide to support investments in renewable energy and energy efficient improvements by agricultural producers and small businesses.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency loan and grant program was established under Section 9006 of the 2002 farm Bill to encourage agricultural producers and small rural businesses to create renewable energy efficient systems. To date, the Bush Administration has committed nearly \$77 million in grant and loan assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses nationwide, including \$1.5 million for Michigan energy projects.

Eligible projects in the 10 technology areas include: anaerobic digesters, biomass, geothermal (including electric generation and direct use), hydrogen, solar (small and large), wind (small and large), and energy efficiency improvements.

Examples of energy efficiency projects include but are not limited to: energy efficient motors, pumps, fans, blowers, compressors, grain dryers, irrigation projects, refrigeration units, ventilation systems, windows, insulation, heating systems, lighting systems, and plumbing fixtures.

Grants can cover up to 25% of total eligible costs. The minimum energy efficiency grant is \$1,500 and maximum is \$250,000. The minimum renewable energy grant is \$2,500 and maximum is \$500,000. Guaranteed loans can cover up to 50% of total eligible costs. Loan limits are a minimum of \$5000 and a maximum of \$10 Million.

Application deadline for submission of grant applications is: May 18, 2007. Application deadline for submission of guaranteed loan applications is July 2, 2007.

If you would like more information or would like an application package, please contact:

Bobbie Morrison – Business Cooperative Specialist- East Lansing – 517-324-5222- bobbie.morrison@mi.usda.gov

Rick Vanderbeek – Business Cooperative Specialist- East Lansing – 517-324-218- rick.vanerbeek@mi.usda.gov

Carol Webb – Business Cooperative Specialist- East Lansing – 517-324-5219- carol.webb@mi.usda.gov

Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative

This is a brand new program that has arisen from a need that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the State of Michigan identified. Currently in Michigan, there is a Multi-Million Dollar backlog of funds that have been allocated through conservation programs to land owners, however for a plethora of reasons have not been paid out. The majority of these programs utilize practices that have to be designed by NRCS engineers; after the design phase is completed the participants are under contract to complete the construction of the practice. The implementation portion is sometimes a confusing part of the process for the participant.

The CTAI Specialists primary job is to assist NRCS in providing pre-construction and on-site technical assistance with implementation of the practices to make sure they are constructed to NRCS Standards and Specifications. This assistance also reduces stress on the landowners to locate material suppliers, contractors and independent consulting firms.

If you are interested in applying for, or need any information on agricultural programs offered through USDA, you may contact any of the following at (517) 784-2800

Zac Smith, CTAI Specialist, Ext. 211

Tamela Smith, Farm Service Agency C.E.D. Ext.200

NRCS District Conservationist. Ext. 212

Jackson County FSA Office
211 W Ganson St
Jackson, MI 49201-1241



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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 directly or by phone.

Dates to Remember

April 1	Status date for payment limitation determinations
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2006 crop loans, LDPs for pulse crops, feed grains, sunflower/safflower seed, cotton, rice, soybeans NAP sales closing date for Nursery Crop.
June 30	Final reporting date for small grains
July 15	Final reporting date for all other crops
August 3	Final Date to Sign-up for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program
November 20	NAP sales closing date for Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Sweet/Tart Cherries, Cane berries (raspberries), Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Rhubarb and Strawberries
December 1	NAP sales closing date for Honey and Maple Sap

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice), (202) 720-5964 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.