



**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](http://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

**Crop Disaster Program**

The USDA announced the Crop Disaster Program beginning October 15, 2007 for farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted **before February 28, 2007**, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. NOTE: Only producers who obtained crop insurance or coverage under the noninsured crop disaster program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered a quantity loss in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. USDA will announce and conduct a CDP sign-up for quality losses for the years noted above as soon as possible.

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) sales  
closing dates**

The deadline for purchasing NAP coverage for crops deemed “fall-planted”, is fast approaching. The following lists several such crops produced in Jackson County:

- Forage (Production) – September 30th
- Cherries – November 20th
- Peaches – November 20th
- Strawberries – November 20th
- Sweet Corn – March 15th
- Sunflowers – March 15<sup>th</sup>

If you grow a crop not listed above, please contact your local FSA office for the NAP closing date(s).

For those with 2007 NAP policy you must report crop production on all crops covered under NAP by the crop reporting date of the next year. **Note:** Alfalfa is now an insurable crop in Jackson County so please contact a crop insurance sales person.

**Facility Loan Program**

Individuals who wish to purchase new farm storage, drying and/or grain handling equipment may apply for the facility loan program. The process is as follows:

- Producer contacts their local FSA office and provides them with original quotes for all equipment, electrical and excavating needs. FSA will determine qualifying needs and the producer will pay a \$45.00 application fee.
- Form FSA-185, application will be completed, signed and initialed by the individual. The producer will also sign a request for a “Credit report” for financial purposes.
- The CED will visit the farm where the bin structure and/or equipment will be placed to conduct an “Environmental Analysis”.

The application is completed and prepared to be presented to the County Committee. The producer will be notified of the interest rate locked in and the amount of funding approved. (The funding amount will be 85% of the total cost of the structure. Funding is disbursed after the structure is completed).

**Jackson County Natural Resources Conservation has a new  
District Conservationist**

**Please welcome Andrew Gust to Jackson County.** Andrew has previously worked in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. **Any HEL and WC Issues** like clearing any land to create or expand existing crop acres, drain a wet area, convert a pasture field into cropland, disturb a wildlife habitat of any type or clear timber areas please contact the FSA office before you begin any work. There are Highly Erodible (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions that need to be followed in order for a producer to remain eligible for USDA benefits. Many times a field visit by NRCS is required to determine wetland areas. Any other resource issues of concern producers may have, please contact Andrew.

## **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)

## **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.

## **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.

## **Electronic Applications**

For the past several years USDA has made great strides in making its programs more accessible. We encourage producers with internet access to use the system.

The electronic service saves time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate and who obtain eAuthentication accounts. The service has strict security measures to protect a participants' private information. Only authorized federal employees have access to information producers submit electronically.

To access the service, producers must have a active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires completing an online registration form followed by one visit to the FSA office for identity verification.

## **Meet the Candidates**

The upcoming County Committee elections are underway and candidates have been nominated from the areas holding the elections. Those areas and candidates are:

## **Jackson County Local Administrative Area #2 Townships of: Springport, Tompkins, Rives, Parma, Sandstone and Blackman**



Candidates:

**Thomas "Tom" Betz**– Tom farms in the Springport Township area. He is a primary cash crop and beef operation. Tom has served as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate to the County Committee for the last 3 years.

**June Coppernoll** – June farms with her husband Harry Coppernoll from the Rives area. They are a primary dairy and cash crop operation. June has previously served on the Committee as Chairperson.

**Gaylord "Butch" Lincoln** – Butch farming operation is primarily based in Jackson County. His primary crops are corn, soybeans and wheat. Butch has served as the Chairperson previously.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all eligible voters in the election area around November 2, 2007.

## **NEW COMPLIANCE PROCESS**

A new compliance and spot check selection process has been implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers has been made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in CRP, DCP, marketing assistance loans (MAL's), and NAP. For more information about the new spot check selection process feel free to contact the FSA office for additional clarification.

## **CERTIFICATION**

The crop reporting deadline has passed; you are required to certify if you are enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and to be eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) or Commodity Loans. If you forgot to report your crops, please call our office immediately. A late file fee of \$30 per farm, plus \$16.00 for the first hour of the farm visit will apply. If additional time is needed a fee of \$8.00 per half hour worked will be charged upon completion of the visit.

## **Unauthorized Disposal of Loan Commodities**

Grain under loan that has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form without prior written authorization from the FSA staff is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and it may affect a producer's ability to obtain future farm-stored loans. Always call the FSA Office before any loan grain is fed, moved or sold.

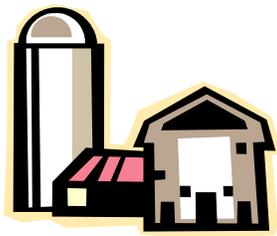
## **MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATE CHANGES**

Measurement service fees for farm visits have changed to a minimum of \$46 per farm for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes thereafter needed to complete the necessary measurements. Travel time to and from the site will be included when computing hours for the fee.

## **FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

The Farm Service Agency provides credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources.

**Contact Russell LaFollette, Farm Loan Manager @ 517-849-9890**



## **Zero Rates for Corn and Soybeans**

Final 2006 Counter-Cyclical (CC) payment rates for corn and soybeans are zero because their effective price exceeds their respective target prices. The effective price equals the direct payment rate, plus the higher of the national average loan rate or the national average farm price. The national average prices received by producers for contract commodities can be found on the FSA Internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

## **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program**

CRP participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments, financial incentives and a cost share payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing the conservation practices. Land in the River Raisin Watershed is eligible for additional benefits through the enhanced version of this program, CREP. To be eligible, land had to have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four of the years 1996-2001. Land in CRP in those years, which is no longer under contract, or land seeded to hay in one of those years is also eligible. To be eligible, the land must be owned for 12 months (some exceptions apply). The CRP program protects millions of acres of topsoil from erosion. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, it also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving (vegetative) covers, greatly increasing wildlife populations in many parts of the country. The continuous conservation reserve program is available throughout the whole county. Eligibility criteria is similar to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), however the additional funding issued through the Michigan Department of Agriculture is not available under this program. This program still provides up to an annual payment of 120% of your soil rental rate, up to 90% cost share to establish the conservation practice, an annual maintenance payment, as well as several other lucrative financial incentives (Note: Soil Rental Rates were recently increased for most Michigan Counties).

## **Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants**

The Farm Service Agency can make direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to federal or state supervision (e.g., banks and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails. Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. Socially disadvantaged loan applicants *do not* receive automatic approval. Individual applicants under this program must meet *all* requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. **Contact the county office staff or USDA Service Center for more 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 orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

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.

<i>Dates to Remember</i>	
September 30	DCP late enrollment closing date ** Even though the 30 <sup>th</sup> is the final date this falls on a Sunday therefore the application must be received by close of business on September 28.
October 8	Office closed for Columbus Day
October 15	Sign up opens for Crop Disaster Program (CDP)
November 12	Office closed for Veterans Day Holiday
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
November 22	Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday
December 3	COC Election Ballots Due Back at County Office
December 25	Office Closed for Christmas Day Holiday
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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, familiar status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individuals 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.