



LENAWEE FSA News

Lenawee County USDA

Service Center

Lenawee County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Bonnie Hunt, Chairperson
Alan Gould
Jeffrey Ehlert

FSA INFO WEBSITE
www.fsa.usda.gov

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Ann Squires 100
Barbara Wagner 107
Beth Wagner 106

Farm Loan Section:
Michael Jordon 110
Farm Loan Manager
Rebecca Deline 111
Judy Kellie 113
Susan Lerch 112

DEADLINES and REMINDERS

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The DCP enrollment deadline is typically June 1st, however it has been extended to August 3, 2007. Producers have until that date to enroll without a late fee. Please call for an appointment to enroll today.



2007 CROP REPORTS:

Producers are required to file a crop acreage report on all cropland for the following programs:

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Commodity Loans
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The deadline is June 30th for wheat and other fall-seeded small grains and July 15th for other crops. Producers are encouraged to file crop reports annually to keep their records up to date

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MADE UPON REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, VISION IMPAIRMENT, OR HEARING IMPAIRMENT. IF ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE CALL CONSTANCE REID GUFFEY AT (517)263-7400.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

THE CREP AREA HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL OF LENAWEЕ COUNTY AND MUCH OF MONROE COUNTY.

Until last month, the only land eligible for the enhanced version of CRP in this area was located in the River Raisin Watershed. The balance of the county is now eligible, as is a good portion of Monroe County.

MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN MAKING AN APPLICATION FOR CREP AND FOR THOSE JUST WANTING A REFRESHER ON THE RULES.

Two informational meetings have been scheduled.

Thursday, June 21st, from 9 to 11 am, in the River Raisin Room of the Human Services Building 1040 South Winter Street in Adrian.

Tuesday, June 26th, from 6 to 8 pm in the same location.

Interested producers should attend one of the meetings.

CONTINUOUS CRP SIGNUP

CRP participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments, a cost share payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing the conservation practices along with other financial incentives depending on the practice. Land in the River Raisin Watershed is eligible for additional benefits through 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. Producers with land expiring from the program on 9/30/07 that is devoted to filter strips, sod waterways and other environmental priority practices, may re-offer the land prior to 9/30/07. 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.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

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

- Operating loans for financing machinery, livestock, crop inputs, debt refinancing
- Farm Ownership loans for farmland, buildings, or improvements
- Down Payment Farm Ownership loans for beginning farmers

-Guaranteed loans made by local lending institutions with the assistance of a guarantee from USDA for the lender to extend credit when normal lending requirements are not met

-Youth loans to assist youngsters in starting profitable ventures while serving as an introduction to credit and financing

-Emergency loans when the area becomes an approved disaster area and losses exceed 30%
Contact Michael Jordon, Farm Loan Manager.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA I

LAA 1, made up of Woodstock, Cambridge, Franklin, Rome, Adrian, Clinton-Tecumseh and Macon Townships will elect a representative to the Lenawee County FSA Committee this year. Bonnie Hunt of Adrian currently holds the seat representing LAA 1. Bonnie is not eligible to be re-elected as she will have served the term limit of three, 3-year terms.

Committee members are a critical component of operations at FSA. They help deliver FSA Farm Programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on the local Committee help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agriculture programs serve the needs of local producers by providing local input on commodity price support loans and payments; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments.

FSA Committees operate within the official regulations designed to carry out Federal Laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Nominations are encouraged. Nomination forms are now available at this office. A nomination form will also be included with the next newsletter sent from the State FSA Office. Interested individuals from the Townships mentioned above must submit a nominating petition on or before August 1, 2007.

Women and minority land owners and operators are encouraged to nominate, vote, and serve on the County FSA Committee.

A person may nominate themselves to be a candidate. Please call if you have questions.

We encourage all to participate!



WATCH YOUR COMMODITIES UNDER LOAN

Always take the time to view the condition of the grain under loan throughout the year, especially during periods of humid air and fluctuating temperatures.

Do not forget, grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a loan violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties, plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply.

Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN UP

DCP is the annual commodity program based on the past planting history on your farm. Farm operators are eligible for this program as are any others sharing in the crops. Farm owners and operators may enroll in this program even if no crop will be planted. Idle DCP acres must be protected from erosion and weeds must be controlled throughout the year. Contact us to schedule an appointment to enroll for 2007, the last year of this program, unless continued in the new Farm Bill.

Signup for crop year 2007 runs through 08/03/07. After that date, a \$100 fee will be charged per farm number enrolled.

When completing the DCP contract, you may elect to receive an advance direct payment of 22%.

Evidence of control of the farm for 2007 is required before an advance payment is released.

The following documents are required and applicable determinations must be made before the County Committee can approve a producer's share on the CCC-509 for payment: a farm-operating plan (CCC-502 and related forms); an average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-526); a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (AD-1026).

2007 CROP LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Prices are higher, but just in case they fall enough to allow for LDP's, here are reminders of the requirements:

Form CCC-633EZ covers all eligible 2007 commodities. To have a commodity eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), producers must **file Page 1 of this form prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity.** For most producers this means prior to moving it off of the farm, feeding it, selling, etc. The CCC-633 EZ is a multiple page form, used for all commodities whether they are delivered to a buyer directly from the field, or stored on or off the farm.

Page one of the form is an intention to request an LDP. This page states the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Page two is submitted with the actual LDP request. Producers indicate the commodity, quantity and source of quantity (whether the quantity is certified, was established by a measurement service, or production evidence is attached. The storage location of the commodity is also required if applicable.

A separate page two is required for each commodity and each day an LDP is requested. For commodities taken directly from the field to the buyer, producers will complete Page 2 of the form and need to present the load summaries, sales record or other acceptable production evidence. Commodities that are stored or fed will be eligible for LDP after Page 2 is completed and the quantity is certified or measured.

The payment rate is the rate on the date of the request, unless beneficial interest was lost. In that case, we use the LDP rate in effect on the day beneficial interest is lost.

Producers with farms administered in multiple county offices, need to ensure that they have filed crop acreage reports accurately in each county in order to be eligible for loans or LDP's. CCC-633EZ Page one may be filed in any county office. That office will get a copy to all other counties in which the producer has an interest. **Page 2 must be filed in the county that administers the farm records.**

Producers of silage and other commodities that will be fed should keep track of the quantity and acres harvested for each LDP requested. The County Committee will use this information to determine the maximum eligible quantity. Bushels used for seed should be documented the same way.

Temporary
Return Service Requested

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT -CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) ACRES

If your CRP cover was planted four or more years ago, you should be thinking about *Mid-Contract Management*. Mid-Contract Management means taking actions to *improve* the CRP cover. The idea is to manage the cover and to make it more useful for wildlife such as ground nesting birds. As your CRP cover matures it may become thick with a single type of grass, or have thistle problems. The cover may benefit from light disking, grass-specific herbicides, interseeding with legumes or wildflowers, or prescribed burning. These activities will create plant diversity and make the cover more attractive to birds.

FSA will provide cost sharing at 50% of eligible costs up to \$50 per acre, per year, not to exceed \$100 per acre for the life of a 10 year contract or \$125 per acre if your contract is for over 10 years. Producers without the requirement for Mid-Contract Management may request that it be added to their conservation plans as long as the contract has at least two years remaining

Mid-Contract Management is different from your responsibility for general maintenance of the CRP cover. CRP cover maintenance is your annual responsibility to maintain the established cover, keeping it free of noxious weeds and woody vegetation. To maintain your CRP cover, you may spot mow between August 1 and 20 (only the specific areas that need weed or brush control). You may mow these areas only once a year and you may do that without contacting FSA. However, if maintenance is needed earlier in the year, to control thistles before they go to seed for example, write to the County Committee or call FSA for permission to treat these spots. This should be done BEFORE they go to seed. Also contact FSA if you need to mow more than once per year to keep weeds under control.

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, audio-tape, 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.