



LENAWEE FSA News

Lenawee County USDA

Service Center

Lenawee County FSA

1100 Sutton RD
Adrian MI 49221 7377

517-263-7400 (phone)
517-265-9121 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Bonnie Hunt, Chairperson
Alan Gould
Jeffrey Ehler

FSA INFO WEBSITE

www.fsa.usda.gov

Staff

Constance Reid Guffey
County Executive Director

Phone Extension 114

Farm Program Section:

Jim Bills	104
Connie Rathbun	108
Ann Squires	100
Barbara Wagner	107
Beth Wagner	106

Farm Loan Section:

Michael Jordon	
Farm Loan Manager	
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Rebecca Deline	111
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REMINDER!

LAA III Ballots Due Monday!

FSA County Committee elections are taking place across the United States. The voting period began Nov. 3, 2006, and runs through Dec. 4, 2006.

Ballots must be postmarked or received in the office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4th.

FSA is again implementing an *aggressive effort to encourage producers to participate.*

Please vote for your County Committee representative.

New members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2007.

Help Needed:

We are currently accepting applications for a temporary intermittent (on call) office position that may be available in coming months.

For information on permanent positions nationwide, go to website:

<http://www.usajobs.gov/>

Type in Farm Service Agency and press "Search"

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

DCP is the annual commodity program based on the past planting history of corn, wheat, oats and soybeans on your farm.

Signup for crop year 2007 has begun and runs through 06/01/07. A \$100.00 late fee applies after June 1st.

Farm operators who are cash renting are eligible for this program and 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, however.

Contact us to schedule an appointment to enroll. Please ensure that you have valid leases or rental agreements for all of the land you rent. Notify us if you have dropped or added any land to your operation. Farm records changes need to be made prior to enrollment.

When completing the 2007 contract, you may elect to receive an advance direct payment.

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).

Only properly authorized signatures will be accepted.

DCP payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm.

Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

A fact sheet, posted online at website:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/printapp?fileName=pf_20060301_insup_en_dcp06.html&newsType=prfactsheet

will provide more information about DCP.

CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 263-7400

REMINDER: WATCH LOAN COMMODITIES

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.

2006 CROP LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Form CCC-633EZ covers all eligible 2006 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.

Page 1 of the form is an intention to request an LDP. This page states the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Page 2 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 2 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.

To help you decide which loads are eligible for an LDP this fall: there were LDP rates of at least one cent per bushel for soybeans delivered nearly every day between September 1st and October 4th.

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 previously 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 1 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.

FILING FORMS USING THE INTERNET

To file E-LDP requests, E-DCP contracts, or to have access to your Customer Statement, you must obtain a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. It is easier than ever. To do this:

1. Go to site:
<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html>

Follow the steps to request a Level 2 account by filling out the information, creating a user ID and password that is temporary, and responding to the confirmation e-mail the system sends you. Note that you must respond to activate your account within 7 days.

2. Bring a picture ID, such as your driver's license, to the office. We will verify your identity and make sure you have a record in the SCIMS database

3. You will then be able to logon to use your USDA account!

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT OF 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 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 and other wildlife.

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.

Producers with newly enrolled areas will receive their cost share forms for mid-contract management with their contract approval packet.

Effective October 1, 2006, producers who re-enroll CRP acres must complete mid-contract management of the acreage twice. Once in year two or three and once again in year six or seven.

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 weeds and woody vegetation.

To maintain your CRP cover, you may spot mow or treat affected areas between August 1 and 20 (only the specific areas that need weed or brush control). You may mow or treat these areas only once a year and you may do that without contacting FSA. However, if maintenance is needed earlier in the year, for example to control thistles before they go to seed, write 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 or treat the acreage more than once per year to keep weeds under control.

Temporary
Return Service Requested

Hands-on training sessions are available! Call us if interested.

Producers will find the Internet-based DCP sign-up service convenient and very user friendly. USDA is taking steps to make its programs more accessible. The electronic DCP service saves producers time, reduces paper-work and speeds up contract processing at Farm Service Agency offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in DCP and who obtain eAuthentication accounts. The service has strict security measures to protect the private information of participants. Only authorized federal employees have access to information producers submit electronically.

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, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact Connie Guffey at 517-263-7400 ext. 2.