



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 Ehlert

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
Debra Shiels 105
Ann Squires 100
Barbara Wagner 107
Beth Wagner 106

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



County Committee Election

LAA I Ballots Due Monday!

FSA County Committee elections are taking place across the United States. The voting period runs until through December 3rd.

Ballots may be postmarked by that date or received in the office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 3rd.

FSA is again implementing an aggressive effort to encourage producers to participate in the County Committee election.

Please vote for your County Committee representative. Those who own or operate agricultural land in any of the following townships are eligible to vote and should have received a ballot: Woodstock, Cambridge, Franklin, Rome, Adrian, Clinton-Tecumseh or Macon.

New members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

The ballots will be counted at 10 am on December 5th at the Farm Service Agency office at 1100 Sutton Road, in Adrian.

County Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help to administer farm programs at the local level by applying their judgment and knowledge to make decisions about federal farm programs. The following nominees are willing to serve if elected:

Michael Feight – Mike, in partnership with his father and brother, operates a dairy farm and 2500 acres, growing cash crops of corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, carrots and red beets.

Linda Fisher – Linda, and husband Kevin, operates 1300 acres, growing cash crops of corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

Detra Halliwill – Detra, and husband Tim, operates 2300 acres, growing cash crops of corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

Debra Ross – Debra, and husband Archie, operates 1000 acres, growing cash crops of corn, soybeans and wheat.

David Squires – David, and wife Helen, operates 1265 acres, growing cash crops of corn, soybeans and wheat.

Remember to vote for one candidate and sign the voter label before returning your ballot. Contact the office at 263-7400 extension 114 for more information. Ballots also may be cast at the FSA office through 4:30 pm on 12/3/07.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO PURCHASED CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURABLE CROP COVERAGE.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. We have received the downloaded information for insured producers. There is no deadline as of yet for this program.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency provides credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources. Contact Michael Jordon, Farm Loan Manager.

Help Needed:

We are currently accepting applications for a temporary intermittant (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"**



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.

FILING FORMS USING THE INTERNET

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>**

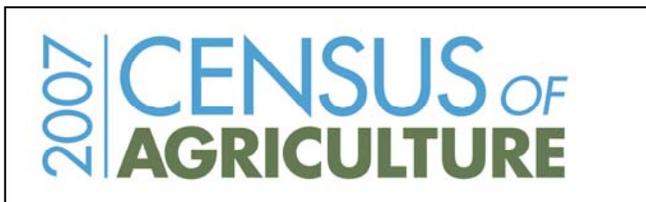
Follow the steps to request a Level 2 account by filling out the information, creating a user ID and password that is temporary, and responding to the confirmation e-mail the system sends you. Note that you must respond to activate your account within 7 days.

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!

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

The service has strict security measures to protect the private information of participants. Only authorized federal employees have access to information producers submit electronically.



Ag Census Time Approaches

It's that time once again for the Agricultural Census, which is conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics.

Brochures are available in both English and Spanish.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online.

CRP ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENTS ISSUED

USDA has distributed approximately \$1.8 billion in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments to participants across the country for fiscal year 2008. Annual rental payments are issued for the prior fiscal year.

Producers in CRP throughout the nation are improving air and water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion.

Producers holding about 782,000 contracts on 441,000 farms will receive an average of \$49.49 per acre. The number of contracts is higher than the number of farms because some producers may have multiple contracts on a single farm. The payments allow producers to earn an average of \$4,130 per farm enrolled in the program.

Included in the totals are 355,000 contracts (3.9 million acres) for CRP's continuous sign-up and 427,000 contracts (32.9 million acres) for general sign-up. Under continuous sign-up, producers may enroll high priority conservation practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers at any time without competition.

Currently, enrollment stands at 36.8 million acres, making CRP the largest public-private partnership for conservation and wildlife habitat in the United States. This voluntary program helps agricultural producers enhance environmentally sensitive land.

Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve water quality, control soil erosion, and enhance habitats for waterfowl and wildlife. In return, USDA provides producers with rental payments. CRP contract duration is from 10 to 15 years.

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, audiotope, 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.

Temporary
Return Service Requested

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 light disking, grass-specific herbicides, inter-seeding 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.

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 do mid-contract management of the acres 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 noxious weeds and woody vegetation.

