



January 2008 volume #1

Farmer's Digest

Arenac/Iosco County
USDA Service Centers

Arenac County FSA
4490 M-61
Standish, MI 48658
989-846-4565 (phone)
989-846-9641 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Arenac County Committee
Earl Steinbauer
Carl Daniels
Ed Stange

Arenac Advisor
Brenda Golimbieski

Iosco County FSA
190 M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-362-3842 (phone)
989-362-8382

Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Iosco County Committee
Joe Vohwinkle
Al Erickson
Chris Daniels

Iosco Advisor
Kim Wickert

County Committee Elections

At December's meeting ballots were counted for the position of county committee member with the following results:

Elected to represent LAA #2 in Arenac County (Mason, Whitney, Au Gres, and Sims townships)

Ed Stange – COC member
Mike Kovacs – First Alternate to COC

Elected to represent LAA #2 in Iosco County (Reno, Burleigh, Alabaster, and Sherman townships)

Chris Daniels – COC member
Terry Bellville – First Alternate to COC

County Committee Organization

The following positions on the County Committees were determined at the organization meetings in January:

Arenac County

Earl Steinbauer – Chairman
Carl Daniels – Vice Chairman
Ed Stange – Member
Brenda Golimbieski – COC Advisor

The Arenac Committee determined to hold their regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Alternate meeting day was designated as the fourth Wednesday of the month. Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m.

Iosco County

Joe Vohwinkle – Chairman
Al Erickson – Vice Chairman
Chris Daniels – Member
Kim Wickert – COC Advisor

The Iosco Committee determined to hold their regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The fourth Thursday of the month was designated as the alternate meeting date. The meetings in Iosco will start at 9:30 a.m.

Please feel free to contact any County Committee member or the office if you have any concerns or questions



Yvonne Gulvas

Yvonne is retiring the end of January after providing over 24 years of service to FSA.

We will be holding an open house on January 24, 2008 at the Standish FSA Office from 10:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

All are invited. Come and join with us as we celebrate.

Dairy Disaster Program

Congress has recently enacted legislation that authorizes payments to Dairy Producers whose production is below NASS statistical levels for the state.

Arenac and Iosco counties will be eligible for 2007 losses of milk production.

Dairy producers need to be collecting their monthly milk statements and the number of cows milked per month. As soon as more information is available we will let you know.



CREP Sign Up

Sign up for producers interested in CREP is on going and will continue until the acreage goal of 85,000 acres is met.

Eligible acreage must be in the Saginaw Bay watershed (this includes all of Arenac and parts of Iosco county) and have been cropped four out of the six years in 1996 through 2001. Acreage not meeting the cropping requirement may be eligible for the riparian buffer program of CREP. Eligible practices include:

- Filter strips
- Windbreaks
- Wetland restorations
- Riparian buffers

If you are interested please call the offices and set up an appointment.

Contracts will be for 15 years and will include additional cost share on establishment from the state. The Michigan CREP also provides additional enhanced financial incentives when compared to the traditional CRP.

For More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



Payment Limitation

No program benefits subject to payment limitation may be provided to any producer until the necessary payment limitation forms are filed and determinations made. A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms are provided and acted upon. An individual or entity must:

Provide significant contributions of capital, land, or equipment to the farming operation

Provide significant contributions of active personnel labor and active personnel management.

Make contributions or inputs to the farming operation that are commensurate with the profits or losses of the farming operation.

Be at risk, commensurate with the claimed share of inputs. Capital cannot be acquired through a loan that was obtained by, or guaranteed by, or secured by any individual, joint operation or entity that has an interest in the farming operation. The status date for determinations is April 1 of the applicable program year.

Foreign Investor Disclosure

Federal law requires that all foreign persons or entities with foreign investors must report their agriculture holdings within 90 days of purchase. The required forms may be picked up at the FSA office.

NEW FARM BILL

There still is no new farm bill for the 2008 crop year at this time. Until a Farm Bill is passed there is no sign up for the Previous Farm Bill DCP Contracts, which also mean no advance payments. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, signed into law on 12/26/07, provides a continuation of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) authority after 12/31/07, until 3/15/08. Based on that authority our office may continue to accept offers, and the County Committee may continue approving contracts, for all types of CRP contracts including Continuous CRP (CCRP), such as filter strips, grass waterways, shallow wildlife ponds.

Spousal Signature Requirement

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 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 or loan deficiency applications on behalf of each other.

Spouses may not sign FSA-211 on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Producers need to contact their local county office for specific signature authority documents needed

Program Outreach

FSA is constantly striving to seek out persons from minority, female, and/or underrepresented groups to ensure they are informed of the agricultural services and programs that our offices administer. Any person of legal age who has an interest in a farm as an owner or operator is eligible to participate in FSA programs and to vote in the FSA county committee election process. If you or someone you know may be eligible for our programs or would like to be included in our mailings please contact your local FSA office for more information.



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 in person or by phone.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Michigan’s farmers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come. That opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every country in the nation.

This information is used by everyone who provides services to farmers and rural communities – including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, and many others. Census data is used to make decisions about many things that directly impact farmers, including:

- community planning
- store/company locations
- availability of operational loans and other funding
- location and staffing of service centers
- farm programs and policies

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 via a secure web site.

Dates to Remember	
January 21 st	Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday. FSA Office Closed.
January 31	Final Loan/LDP availability date for wool and mohair.
February 18 th	George Washington’s Birthday. FSA Office Closed.
March 15 th	Final application date for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (contact your local office for crop specific deadlines).
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP and CREP
Continues	MILC Program



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.