



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 (fax)

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

Iosco County Committee
Joe Vohwinkle
Al Erickson
Chris Daniels

Iosco Advisor
Kim Wickert

2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program

Sign up for the 2009 DCP program has not yet been announced.

Report any farm changes - to your farming operation so that we can keep your records current. This includes changes in landownership or operators.

- If the land in your operation hasn't changed, do you have a signed lease from the landowner?
- A signed rental agreement or the landowner's signature on the DCP Contract is required.
- All farmers who produce a crop on the base acres are entitled to a share in the DCP payment. Landowners who do not have an interest in the crop are not eligible to receive a DCP payment.

Many of the lease agreements for 2008 have expired. Now is a good time to be getting a signed lease for 2009 crop year and beyond. This will help in expediting payments.

Right now the rules and regulations for 2009 are still in a state of flux with more training and further clarification coming in the future.

Payment Limitation and Eligibility

For 2009 programs, the following will become applicable:

- In 2009 average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limits have changed. Restrictions are as follows:
- Non Farm AGI greater than \$500,000 – no eligibility for price support or DCP

- Farm AGI greater than \$750,000 – no eligibility for DCP direct payments
- If AGI is greater than \$1 million - no eligibility for conservation programs unless 66.66% is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations
- Payment Limitation Controls will be established in 2009 which will credit individuals and entities with both the amount of payments they receive directly and also the amount they are considered to have received indirectly by holding an interest in an entity receiving payment.

To reflect the above changes, **new forms will be required to be filed by all participants receiving payments for the 2009 year.**

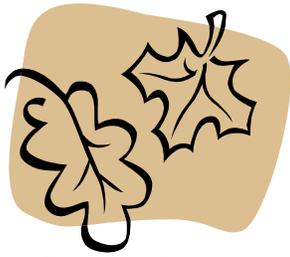


County Committee Election

Election ballots for County Committee have been mailed in both Arenac and Iosco counties. Please take the time to vote and return your ballot. This is your opportunity to provide local input and guidance to the implementation of federal farm programs administered by the Farm Service Agency. Return your ballot by December 1, 2008

Ballots will be counted in Arenac County on December 3, 2008. Ballots will be counted in Iosco County on December 4, 2008.





Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the sales closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.



2008 WOOL/MOHAIR/UNSHORN PELTS

The final loan availability date to request a marketing assistance loan or LDP for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts is January 31, 2009

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes ACRE program payments. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, producers will have the option to participate in a state-level revenue protection program instead of the counter-cyclical program.

In crop years 2009 through 2012, producers who make an irrevocable election to receive ACRE Program payments will:

1. Not receive counter-cyclical payments on enrolled farms.
2. Be subject to a 20 percent reduction in direct payments for all covered commodities on enrolled farms.
3. Be subject to a 30 percent reduction in marketing assistance loan rates for all covered commodities on enrolled farms.

If actual state per acre revenue is less than the guarantee and if a producer suffers an actual revenue loss for the crop on the farm, then the producer will receive an ACRE payment equal to the difference between the state per-acre revenue guarantee and the state actual revenue calculation paid on 83.3 percent (85 percent for 2012) of the acres planted to the covered commodity on the farm.

New WEB Based Payment System

FSA is switching to a new WEB based payment system effective this December. This means that all payments will be issued off of the web and will transmit from Kansas City.

Producers wishing to receive their payment in a timely manner must have a direct deposit form on file. Those without a direct deposit form on file will receive a check sometime within seven to ten days after enrollment and approval

Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Payments

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!!! The 2008 Farm Bill appropriated funds for the following Supplemental Disaster Programs:

- ◆ SURE – Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
- ◆ Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- ◆ Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- ◆ Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)
- ◆ Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

For producers to be eligible they must purchase at least the CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops on **all crops in all counties.**

Many have purchased “Buy In” and will be eligible for 2008. Now is the time to ensure eligibility for 2009. 1st thing to do is to visit your insurance agent and get insurance for all of your “Insurable” crops; then contact FSA to purchase coverage on your “Non-insurable” crops with a “NAP” policy. Deadlines to purchase 2009 NAP coverage on fall seeded or perennial crops have been extended to Dec. 1, 2008. *New rules allow crops of less than 10% of economic significance to waive the requirement to purchase insurance. These crops will not be covered by SURE. There are also special provisions for producers that are beginning farmers, limited resource, or socially disadvantaged.

Contact either office for more details as information on this program is still evolving. Please note **ALL** crops in **ALL** counties must be covered or waived to qualify for 2009 assistance. For a SURE Calculator go to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing> under the *Tools* section.

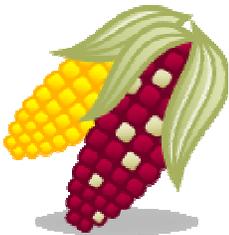


Farm Record Changes

If you have purchased or sold land, leased additional land or changed tenants, please notify the FSA office so farm records may be updated.

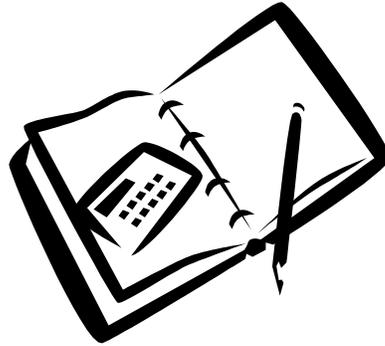
For Land Purchases:

- A copy of the deed is required
- All landowners must furnish their tax ID # if they are enrolling in a program.



County Committee Advisor

Arenac and Iosco county offices are currently seeking nominations for an advisor to the County Committees in each office. The duties of this position include meeting with the Committee members, offering suggestions, and advising on issues that come before either Committee. Anyone interested in the position should submit a short narrative about themselves to their respective office by January 5, 2009. You may nominate yourself or another producer.



Production Records

It is important and your responsibility to maintain and provide acceptable production records for eligibility in many of our programs such as SURE, ACRE, and NAP.

Ideal records would be verifiable by CCC through an independent source, be dated, show disposition with quantity and price, and be crop specific.

If verifiable records are not available, reliable records may be acceptable.

Pick records, register tapes, and ledgers of income are some examples of reliable records.

You should also provide a clear and concise summary of your production records and make sure it notes the unit of measure being used.

Important – DCP 10 Acre Rule Change for 2008

During 2008 DCP signup which ended October 15, 2008, farms with 10 base acres or less were ineligible for payment per Section 1101 of the 2008 Farm Bill. New legislation, enacted on October 13, 2008, suspends this provision and now extends 2008 DCP signup *only for farms with 10.0 base acres or less until November 26, 2008.*

Please Note this change and if your farm was not enrolled and has 10 or less acres of crop bases, contact this office before Nov. 26, 2008.

DEADLINE To Purchase 2009 NAP Coverage

December 1, 2008 is the deadline to purchase 2009 NAP coverage on:

- * Forage/hay crops
- * fall seeded small grains; wheat, rye, & speltz
- * honey
- * maple sap
- * Christmas Trees
- * fruit crops
- * asparagus
- * grazing lands

NAP policies are available on any crop that cannot be covered under a crop insurance policy.

The service fee for 2009 coverage is \$250.00 per crop, maximum \$750.00 per county & \$1875.00 per producer for all counties.

A NAP policy must also be purchased on all grazing land to be eligible for disaster payments in the event of grazing loss. The deadline to purchase a grazing policy has also been extended to December 1, 2008.



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 Arenac or Iosco County Office in person or by phone.

Tiling or Clearing Land

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules.** Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026.

Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 27	Office closed for the observance of Thanksgiving Day
Dec 1	Last Day to purchase NAP
Dec 1	Last day to return COC ballots
Dec 3	COC Ballots counted in Arenac
Dec 4	COC Ballots counted in Iosco
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Continues	Conservation Reserve Program

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Due to changes in the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions and programs being offered by the USDA, new power of attorney (POA) forms may need to be completed. If you are acting as a POA, please contact the office to determine if a new form is required

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.