



July 2008

BERRIEN COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER



USDA Service Center Berrien County FSA

3334 Edgewood
Berrien Springs, MI
49103

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(269) 471-3773 (fax)

www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Calvin Gnodtke
Mary Wagner
Neal Kreitner

Farm

Program Technicians

Barb Dumke, PT
Sue Kraklau, PT
Nova Little, PT
Marquita Sommer, PT
Kathryn Warmbein, PT

Farm Loan

Program Technician

Delores Whitson, PT

Farm Loan Officer

Paul Wagner

Farm Loan Manager

William Hogan

County Executive Director

Lloyd B. Beebe

CRP Cover Maintenance

Attention Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants: cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. Mowing for cosmetic purposes or general weed control is not allowed and will result in financial penalties. Mowing maintenance activities may be allowed once per year, only if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, and only on the portion of CRP in need of maintenance. Mowing is permitted between August 1st and August 20th to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate regrowth for winter cover. *Producers may request permission to perform maintenance activities outside the specified timeframe, but each request has to be approved by the Berrien County Committee on a case-by-case basis. Plan ahead and contact the FSA office prior to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres.* All 2008 requests to mow will be reviewed by the County Committee. Mowing on an annual basis is not an acceptable method of weed and woody growth control. The County Committee has the right to deny maintenance requests if previous mowing has not adequately solved the problem. Spraying a herbicide may be a viable option, but approval must be requested in writing and granted by the County Committee **BEFORE** you begin the maintenance activity.

Livestock Compensation & Livestock Indemnity Programs Deadline

Signup for these two programs will end on **July 18th 2008**. These programs were for livestock or livestock feed losses incurred January 1, 2005 and December 30, 2007 because of natural disasters. Producers who may be eligible need to contact the USDA Farm Service Agency / Service Center for an appointment before **July 18th 2008**.

***CRP / SAFE* ---- State Acres For wildlife Enhancement**

There is a new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program project planned for Michigan - Berrien County. ***"Michigan Native Pollinators SAFE"*** is the name of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Practice that may have eligible lands in Berrien County. This project involves practices which provide diverse sources of nectar and pollen along with bare soil for ground nesting pollinators. Bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators will benefit from these practices. The 22 counties along Lake Michigan are eligible. This will be limited to the first 2,500 acres state wide.



Signups for this practice will be available **JULY 1**

Anyone interested in this practice please contact the office to set up an appointment.

DCP SIGNUP BEGINS!!!

Signup is underway for the 2008 DCP program. Producers can visit their local FSA office or sign-up online. They can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access.

For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Advance payments will be issued as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

Call the office today and make an appointment to sign-up. Final Date to Sign-up is September 30th, 2008.



Berrien Co. FSA Office
3334 Edgewood Ct
Berrien Springs, MI 49103



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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CROP CERTIFICATION

Reporting the crop acreage to FSA is an annual requirement. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crop acreage and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland must be reported to receive benefits from Direct and Counter-cyclical Programs, Marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Crop reports (form-FSA-578) must account for all cropland on a farm whether cropped or idle. Producers are required to file reports by August 15th for all crops.

Appointments for all crop sign-ups are necessary for the efficient use of the producer and staff time.

NAP- Noninsured Assistance Program

DEADLINE to report 2007 production is July 15th 2008. Producers that have a 2007 NAP application for crop loss and have not reported their production need to contact the FSA Service center to set up an appointment to do so. Failure to report by this date shall make the application null & void. NAP producers call to make that appointment **Today!**

Office Closed: July 4, 2008



Independence Day

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities or handicaps. If accommodations are required please contact the FSA office.

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