



Clinton County FSA News

Clinton County USDA Service Center

Clinton County FSA
2343 N US-27
St Johns, MI 48879
989-224-3720 (phone)
989-224-1033 (fax)

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

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Ronald Arens
Doug Eldridge
Jim Voisinet

**County Committee
Advisor**

Melva Kelley

Office Staff

Linda Applebee
Amanda Conklin
Jan Eckelbarger
Valerie Gillespie
Doreen Schneider

Field Reporter

Mark Walsh

**County Executive
Director**

Anita M Perkins

Farm Loan Manager

Tim Neuhardt

**County Committee
Meetings**

3rd Wednesday of each
month.

Changing to a New Map System

We have been involved in a time consuming process for the last two years converting our maps to a Geographical Information System (GIS). This process will become our normal business process when working with maps. We are now ready to begin the next stage. **Stage 2** is mailing maps to you to verify field boundaries and data are correct.

County Office Maps Have a New Look

The map you receive in the mail will be by tract. You will no longer be able to see all the land in an entire township section.

The computer adjusts the size of the fields to fit the paper. In some cases the computer may make small fields so big that you can no longer verify boundaries. If you accidentally receive a distorted map, please contact us and we will print a new map.

At the bottom of each map is a legend which contains data about the map: county data, farm number, tract number, etc. Due to a recent agency update, the following information has been added: HEL = highly erodible, NHEL = not highly erodible and Undetermined HEL = Blank. Wetlands are marked with the following symbols: (red circle = Restricted Use, yellow triangle = Limited Restrictions, green square = Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions. Please contact the office for limitations of use for the various wetland labels.

What Are You Verifying

Please review these maps to make sure your boundaries and data are correct. This includes if you have sold property, acquired new farmland, taken ground out of production for houses/buildings or no longer farm an area.

At this time we want to ensure field boundaries and data are correct. Acres can not be disputed, but can be used as a tool to help you identify possible boundary errors.

Please keep in mind there is always a potential for human error. If you notice that a land determination was not transferred (such as Wetland or HEL determination) to the new map please contact the office. We would like these maps as correct as possible to avoid violations.

Who Will Receive Maps

Each owner and operator who is currently attached to the tract will be mailed a map with a letter giving 30 days to address any needed corrections.

To make this process easier, most operators will receive all maps at the same time with a listing of the farms and owners to be used as a reference for the maps.

Owners may receive maps separately if there is more than one operator connected to their land. This would also include situations where an individual is owner and operator on CRP but rents the remainder of the cropland to someone else.

When Will I Receive My Maps

It is taking longer than expected to print maps. Our goal was to have all maps ready for mailing by March 31. At this point in time we are a little over half done. All maps that were printed, stuffed and postmarked for March 31 have been mailed. Those whom have not yet received their maps in the mail, should by April 30.

Map Data

Please keep in mind what you are seeing is a copy of the old map we have always used and has now been added to the computer.

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Dates to Remember

- May 5** Last Day to apply for the Dairy Disaster Program
- May 26** Office Closed – Memorial Day
- May 31** Last Day to apply for a 2007 commodity loan on corn or soy-beans
- Jun 30** Last Day to report fall seeded crops
- Jul 15** Last Day to report spring seeded crops and CRP

Report map boundary changes within 30 calendar days from the date of the letter.

Correcting Field Boundaries

Stage 3: is correcting field boundaries and data. You will need to visit the office if you determine a boundary line or the data is incorrect. We are asking that you bring the map back to the office with the proper documentation as described in the letter.

We will make a copy of your map and note any boundary discrepancies. Once all owners and operators have received their maps, we will begin making map corrections.

When Will the New Maps Become Effective?

Please keep in mind that any changes made to these maps will not become effective immediately. This project is completely separate from the maps and the farm records we are currently using for program purposes.

Stage 4: The acres from the new maps will be activated and used for all 2009 programs.

Business as Usual

Map changes will not affect 2008 programs or crop certification. After you plant your 2008 crops you will certify your crops on the same maps and acres that you have certified on for the last 10 years.

Program Changes

Both CRP contracts and farm bases could be affected by the updated map acres.

Stage 5: will be adjusting the contract data to match the new farm records data. At this point in time we have no way to determine if your farms will be affected. Please watch future newsletters for any updates on this process.

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Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Anita Perkins at 989-224-3720 ext 106.