



Clinton County FSA News

Clinton County USDA Service Center

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

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Ronald Arens
Doug Eldridge
Jim Voisinnet

County Committee Advisor

Melva Kelley

Office Staff

Linda Applebee
Amanda Conklin
Jan Eckelbarger
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.

Valerie Gillespie Retires

On November 21st Valerie joined the elite group of FSA retirees. Valerie has been a valuable member of the Clinton ASCS/ Farm Service Agency team for 22+ years.

Through the years, Valerie has been responsible for such programs as the production adjustment, office computers, oil-seed program and crop disaster.

The office staff always teased Valerie about being the farmer's favorite because she had the programs with the MONEY!

Anyone who would like to congratulate Valerie on her retirement can drop off or mail a card to the office and we will make sure she gets it.

Jan Eckelbarger plans to Retire

On December 31st Jan will come to work for the last time. After 23+ years of service to the ASCS / Farm Service Agency, Jan has decided to retire.

Jan previously worked in both the Gratiot and Isabella County offices but it was Clinton that was lucky enough to get her to stay.

Jan is responsible for keeping all the participants' farm records and program eligibility up to date. In addition, she takes the lead in the coordination of crop certification each year.

Please join us in honoring Jan to celebrate this special event.

Open House for Jan Eckelbarger

Date: Monday December 29, 2008
Time: 12:30-4:00 pm
Place: Clinton County FSA Office
Refreshments will be served.



Office Employees Needed

Clinton County FSA Office will be accepting applications for two permanent full time Program Technicians and one part time Program Technician until December 15, 2008.

A program technician is responsible for carrying out office activities and administering assigned FSA programs to area farmers and landowners.

Applications and a copy of the full vacancy announcement are available at the office

Milk Income Loss Program (MILC)

We are still waiting for the agency to announce a program sign-up date for the 2008-2012 MILC program.

When the sign-up period is announced we will send all dairy operations that previously participated in MILC programs the information needed to participate in this program.

If you are a new dairy operation or have not participated in past MILC programs, please contact our office so we can add you to our mailing list.

Dates to Remember

- Dec 8** Ballots opened at 9:30 a.m. to determine new COC Member
- Dec 25** Office Closed – Christmas
- Dec 29** Open House
Jan’s Retirement
- Jan 1** Office Closed –
New Year’s Day
- Jan 19** Office Closed –
Martin Luther King’s Birthday

2008 Commodity Loans

The loan program is a good tool to access the needed funds to pay operating bills that may come due prior to the marketing of this year’s crop.

Nine month commodity loans are available for corn, wheat, oats, soybeans, and minor oilseeds grown in 2008.

Loan rate/bu: Wheat – red \$2.21 / white \$2.14, Corn - \$1.88, and Soybeans - \$4.94.

Producers offer their harvested commodity as collateral. Grain is stored on the farm or at an approved warehouse. To be eligible, grain must meet grading factors and remain in good condition through the life of the loan.

You must request a marketing authorization before you sell any grain under loan and pay back bushels before you feed it.

Loans will be paid back using principal plus interest OR the posted county price which ever is to your advantage.

Loan interest rate for December is 2.25%. Interest rate changes on all commodity loans in January to the rate effective for that month.

FSA’s New Buzz Word - Personally Identifiable Information (PI I)

The Agency has taken a strong stand on protecting individual’s personal information. Due to this change, some of the information you have been able to get out of the office, will no longer be available to you.

Examples of these records are: 1) section maps containing acreage, wetland, HEL information that is not part of your operation and 2) base and yield information from farms that you do not own or rent.

You will also start to notice that even information pertaining to other individuals will be removed from your copy of program applications or documents.

2009 DCP / ACRE Program

Will be announced in a future news letter.

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

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.