



January 2008

## Delta-Schoolcraft-Alger-Marquette County News

Gladstone USDA Service Center

Delta-Schoolcraft-Alger-Marquette County FSA  
2003 Minneapolis Ave.  
Suite 102  
Gladstone, MI 49835  
906-428-3361(phone)  
906-428-1086(fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee  
Dave Bahrman  
John Wolf  
John Charles Bergdahl  
Diane Hanson  
Jon Haindl

Staff  
Donna Silta, CED  
Bruce Stephenson, FLO  
Bonnie Richmond, PT  
Kristine Gallant, PT  
Rita Mills, PT  
Rachel Miron, PT  
Mike Iho, Field Assistant



\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*

### Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program

The DDAP-III program will provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered dairy production losses as a result of natural disasters occurring during the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007. Producers will receive direct payments for eligible losses to help relieve economic injuries suffered by the dairy industry in disaster counties throughout the U.S.

\*\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*\*

### Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and **DECEMBER 31, 2007**. Producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007 are eligible.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and **DECEMBER 31, 2007**, are eligible. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits.

Eligible livestock under LCP, must: be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry (chickens, turkey, ducks, and geese), elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that; have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and not have been pro-

duced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period(s); suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event(s) during the applicable disaster period(s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

Producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LCP. An individual or entity whose average adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million for the three years immediately preceding the calendar year for which benefits are requested, is ineligible for LCP benefits unless 75 percent or more of their income is from agriculture.

### 2005, 2006, 2007 Disaster Programs

Assistance is available for quantity and quality losses for 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops that suffered a loss due to damaging weather. Sign up began on October 15, 2007. No deadline date has been set as of this printing.

The 2007 crops must have been planted or prevented from being planted before **DECEMBER 31, 2007**.

Quantity losses must exceed 35%.  
Quality losses must be 25% or greater.

Eligible crops must have been covered under a Crop Insurance Policy or a NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) policy issued by a county office.



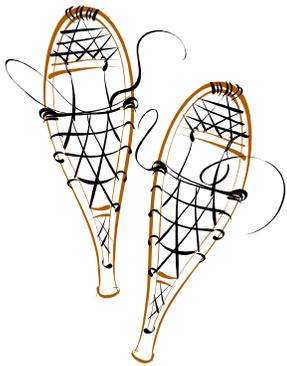
Payments may be assigned to another person or business or issued joint to the producer and another party.

Producers must file a separate application by crop and unit and submit the following forms if not already on file for the applicable year.

CCC-502 Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.

**Please remember once sign up begins it is helpful to call and make an appointment!**

### Foreign Buyers Notification



The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



### Bank Account Changes

In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the county office staff if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.



### 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 office staff directly or by phone.

### Attention Producers, Landowners

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service representative before you begin work.

### Emergency Loan Program

Delta/Schoolcraft have been designated disaster for 2007. Low interest loans are now available for crops losses through July 7, 2008 for drought and July 14, 2008 for Frost/Freeze.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Stephenson, Farm Loan Officer at the Gladstone Service Center at 906-428-3361, Ext. 2.



## Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.



## FARM BILL UPDATE

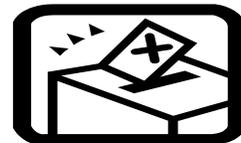


Wondering why we haven't started signups for the 2008 program yet? Because the Farm Bill is still tied up in Congress! The House passed their version last July, while the Senate's version wasn't passed until December. It will now go to a U.S. House and Senate Conference Committee to work out the differences in the two versions. Then the compromise version of the new bill will again be voted on by the entire House and Senate before it's sent to the President to sign into law. After that, it is published in the Federal Register, and programs, procedures, handbooks and forms will have to be developed before a signup is announced. In other words, don't hold your breath!

## County Committee Election Results

The election results for **Local Administrative Area 5** are:

- Dave Bahrman was elected to represent producers in Alger County.



The election results for **Local Administrative Area 2** are:

- Jon Haindl - Elected to represent producers in Schoolcraft County.
- Mike Korenich was elected – First Alternate

**Dan Bahrman's** term expired this year and we would like to thank him for his dedicated service to the producers in Alger County.

We would also like to thank **Leland Pawley** for his dedicated service to the producers in Schoolcraft County.

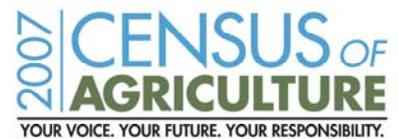
FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in January and **Jon Haindl** will serve as the county committee Chairman and **John Charles Bergdahl** will serve as Vice-Chairman.

## 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Report forms for the 2007 Census of Agriculture were mailed to farm and ranch operators 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 option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site.

NASS will release Census data, in both electronic and print formats, beginning in February 2009. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states and the nation.





Selected Interest Rates for January 2008	
Farm Operating - Direct	4.375
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125
Limited Resource	5.000
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00
Emergency	3.750
Farm Storage Facility	3.625
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.250

Dates to Remember	
January 21	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. – Office Closed
January 31	Final Loan/LDP availability date for wool and mohair.
February 18	President’s Day – Office Closed
March 15	Final Date to Purchase NAP Insurance

### 2007-CROP COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. Contact your local office for more information.



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