



Farm Service Agency

Newsletter #2008/00002

April/May 2008

Genesee County FSA News

**GENESEE COUNTY
Farm Service Agency**
1525 N. Elms Rd.
Flint, MI 48532
(810) 230-8766, Ext. 2
(810) 230-2404 (Fax)

COUNTY COMMITTEE
Chad B. Morey
Terry Spezia
Ronald Dieck

ADVISOR
Shauna Weil

OFFICE STAFF
Karla A. Klasek
Jean Ann Tarrant
Tara Eldridge

FIELD ASSISTANT
William Darnell

FARM LOAN MANAGER
Phil Sweeney

**FARM LOAN PROGRAM
TECHNICIAN**
Susan Swosinski

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
2nd Wednesday of the month

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
JAYNE A. VAN NESS



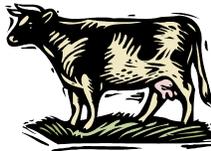
GENESEE COUNTY FSA WELCOME'S TARA ELDRIDGE AS THE NEW FARM PROGRAM TECHNICIAN....

Tara Eldridge is no stranger to agriculture. She grew up on a farm in Lapeer County and remains active in agriculture working with her husband. She worked previously in the Lapeer County FSA Office and also had previous agricultural business experience working as a Veterinarian Assistant.

Tara will handle the following programs administered by the Farm Service Agency:

- Livestock Compensation Program
- Dairy Disaster Assistance Program
- Common Provisions Program (Farm program changes)
- Conservation Programs

Please help us welcome Tara as she begins her career with FSA.



DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Program ends May 5, 2008. All Dairy producer's on record with FSA have received information regarding this program and the requirements and evidence needed to enroll. If you did not receive information from this office regarding program eligibility, please contact the office immediately.



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Producer's who suffered crop losses due to damaging weather or other related conditions for crop years 2005, 2006 and the **entire crop year of 2007** on crops insured through RMA or NAP coverage are now eligible. Losses must be in excess of 35% for quantity and/or 25% for quality losses.

Contact FSA for details. **NO DEADLINE DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.**

2008 FARM BILL STILL PENDING

Information regarding the 2008 farm bill and the pending 2008 enrollment is still on hold. Legislation was passed to extend the current Farm Bill Provisions through April 18, 2008. No further details have been received.

Please keep an eye on newsletters or other farm articles published regarding the final implementation of the farm bill provisions.

FARM LEASING PROVISIONS

To prepare for the upcoming enrollment into the 2008 farm program, you are reminded of the following:

Farm Program payments must be issued in the same manner as how the crop is shared. Producer's who cash rent a farm, then sub-lease that farm on a share basis will have a reduction in payment based on a cropland factor.

All written cash rental agreements must be year specific and must also indicate that the land is being leased on a "Cash Rent Basis".

If you claim your farm benefits to the IRS under an Assumed Name, LLC, partnership or other name, this information must be presented to the county office to ensure payments are issued accurately.

Once again, all eligibility paperwork will be reviewed in advance of enrollment. Please review this information thoroughly.

Report Farm Changes timely.....

Changes in farmland, cropland, operator and/or owner changes must be reported to the Farm Service Agency Office timely to ensure accurate records for the upcoming enrollment period. This process can be started immediately rather than reporting those changes during sign up and/or certification.

Please do not delay, report changes today!



LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for certain types of livestock feed losses and increased feed costs that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 in eligible disaster counties as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

If you would like additional details on this program, please feel free to contact the County Office.

NO PROGRAM DEADLINE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The USDA, Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is still available to all eligible producer's and/or landowner's in Genesee County. As the name implies this program pays enhanced benefits.

To request or inquire about this program, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office to determine cropland eligibility. Additional eligibility requirements must be met for approval.

For additional details contact FSA in Genesee at (810) 230-8766, Ext. 2 and visit with Tara.

NRCS District, CREP Technician's Bill Kuechenmeister and Donna Flagg are also available to assist regarding conservation planning and seeding requirements.

FARM CROP CERTIFICATION REMINDERS.....

Producers are reminded that crop acreage reporting continues to play an important role through the FSA Offices and RMA Offices. Certification of crop acreages are needed to maintain farm history which may determine eligibility in future farm programs as well as the Conservation programs administered by FSA.

Acreage reports must be filed timely. Those deadlines are:

- June 30th for fall seeded crops.
- July 15th for spring seeded crops.

Planting dates are also a requirement at the time of acreage reporting.

FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS

Farm Service Agency procedure states that you must report failed acreage at the time of disaster occurrence. This report will protect farm history and allows FSA to reconcile acreage requests from Risk Management Agency (Crop Insurance). Please timely file any potential crop losses and/or failed crop acreage timely.

PREVENTED PLANTING PROVISIONS

Crops prevented from being planted must be reported to FSA within 15 days of the final planting date to ensure eligibility and to maintain crop history. The following lists the final planting dates:

- Wheat October 25th
- Oats May 20th
- Sugar Beets May 20th
- Corn June 5th
- Soybeans June 15th
- Dry Edible Beans June 25th



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producer's who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or cost break down of new equipment requested.
- Covers both farm storage, grain handling equipment, grain dryers, etc.
- Pay a \$45.00 application fee.
- Provide to FSA an Income Statement and Balance Sheet for review of financial capabilities.
- Purchase crop insurance on the crops grown in the county where the facility is constructed.
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee.
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility to ensure FSA security is not at risk.

Interest rates are locked in for the 7 year period of the loan. (Current April interest rate has been set at 3.0%). Annual payments are due starting one year from the date of disbursement. Loan funding is set at 85% of the total cost and will be disbursed after completion.

Genesee County FSA Office
1525 N. Elms Rd.
Flint, MI 48532



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Lansing, MI
Permit #19

COMPLAINT PROCESS

After an official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have four choices – an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation, appeal to the State Committee and appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD).

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 incomes derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 72-6382 (TDD).