



Farm Service Agency

Newsletter #2008/00001

February/March 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

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



Sharon Graham retires after 42 years of service

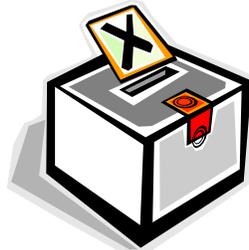
Genesee County Farmers will see a big difference when visiting the county office during the upcoming enrollment into the farm program as well as crop acreage reporting. Long time employee, Sharon Graham decided to retire the end of December, ending her tenure with ASCS/FSA after 42 years of service.

A summary of her service to the ASCS/FSA agency and the farmers of Genesee County is available to all those interested. Sharon did not want a party or open house, however has given the county office employees the authority to release her home address as well as her e-mail address to anyone interested in sending her "best wishes". Contact one of the staff for this information.

It was a pleasure working with Sharon and we know she will be missed by the farmers that visited the county office and she will miss them also!

ANOTHER CHANGE.....Genesee County FSA has been given authority to advertise and hire an employee to fill the vacant position previously held by Sharon Graham. During this transition and training period, please be patient with any delays and/or questions that may arise from any of the employees in Genesee County. I appreciate your patience and if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding program administration, please feel free to contact myself, Jayne A. Van Ness, County Executive Director.

Due to these changes, I have revised my schedule to; Tuesday/Thursdays in Shiawassee County and Monday/Wednesday and every other Friday in Genesee.



ELECTION RESULTS

The County Committee Election results are as follows:

- GENESEE COUNTY
- Ronald Dieck – Member
 - Linda Minarik – 1st Alternate





CROP DISASTER PROGRAM CHANGES.....

The Farm Service Agency, Crop Disaster Program was announced in the November/December 2007 newsletter. Changes to the program have since then been announced. Producers 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.

For additional details, contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

2008 FARM BILL STILL PENDING

Information regarding the 2008 farm bill and the pending 2008 enrollment is still on hold. Some information has been received through press releases, articles, etc. but nothing has been finalized and enrollment options, dates and/or deadlines have not been established.

Please keep on 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. Producers 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!



BEWARE OF CROP INSURANCE SCHEMES

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal Crop Insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA reminds all Federal Crop Insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes.

Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121

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.

GENESEE COUNTY 2007 NITROGEN PLOT RESULTS

Plot	Trt#	PSNT + Soy N Credit	Starter N (#s)	Chicken N (#s)	# N from NH4	Total #N	N Cost/Acre	Bu/Acre	Stalk N Test (PPM)	Plot Rank	Economic Return	Total N Ratio	Purchased N Ratio
Avg.	1	105	40	60	0	205	\$29.20	121.3	80	4	Base	1.69	0.82
Avg.	2	105	40	60	35	240	\$40.05	141.0	48	3	\$63.08	1.70	0.96
Avg.	3	105	40	60	55	260	\$46.25	148.0	257	T1	\$83.26	1.76	1.05
Avg.	4	105	40	60	75	280	\$52.45	148.3	1016	T1	\$30.82	1.89	1.18

PSNT Credit used was the average of 2 tests taken minus N from the chicken manure

PSNT Test results recommended 25# of N be applied/A (average of 2 tests)

N Credit of 25# was used for previous crop of soybeans

Total N Ratio=Total #N divided by Bushels of Corn

Purchased N Ratio=Total #N minus PSNT and Soybean N Credit divided by bushels of corn

Stalk N Test

< 700 ppm Low, 700 - 2000 ppm Optimal, > 2000 ppm Excess

Conclusions:

-Low stalk PPM on treatments 1, 2 and 3 was likely yield limiting during the growing season, treatment 4 yield was not limited by the amount of N available to the crop.

-Plot results were similar to both 2005 and 2006, the 55# N sidedressed rate tied for the highest yield and resulted in the highest economic return

-Since there was not a statistical difference between plots 2, 3 and 4, the best rate for sidedressed N was 35# for 2007.

Concessions:

-Rainfall was deficient for corn this year

-Corn yield was below average this year compared to the last 2 years

-Stalk N test was taken by treatment.

-The test plot consisted of two soil types

For more information contact Tom Wert, Groundwater Technician (989)723-8263 ext.3 or (810)230-8766 ext.3

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.

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 Karla.

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

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



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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.

COMMON LAND UNIT CERTIFICATION

The Genesee County Office is in the process of updating the new CLU mapping which will be used in the near future. Prior to implementation of this CLU mapping layer, each landowner and operator will receive a letter and a copy of their map designating their farm number, tract number and acreage for each parcel. If you disagree with that information you will have the ability to review and work with the county office to correct any discrepancies.

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).