



U.S. Department of
Agriculture

**Gladwin/Clare Co.
Office**

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Hours

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Ken Brown, Chairman

Dick Brushaber

Jim Eberhart

Mark Iciek

Randy Sheehan

Linda Freier, advisor

Staff

Jessie Engelhardt

Brenda Inscho

Loan Officers

Betty Garrett

Loan Manager

Jerry Spickerman

**County Executive
Director:**

Dick Rankin

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

April 2008



LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

Producers with eligible livestock who suffered pasture losses last year may apply now for assistance under the LCP. This is actually a feed loss program and pays on the lesser of your livestock feed needs or pasture loss. There's also a provision if you had to purchase more feed than normal that may apply. No deadline has been announced yet but the sooner you apply the sooner we may be able to get money to you. Clare County was also approved for 2005, so if you had greater losses in 2005 you may apply for that year instead of 2007. We will need to know your animal numbers and acres you pastured when you call or stop in.

NO FARM BILL- NO SIGN-UP YET

The Annual DCP Program expired September 30, 2007 and No New Farm Bill has been passed as yet to take it's place. Congress extended the 2002 Farm Bill until April 18, 2008. This means for FSA producers is that you may sign up for Continuous CRP contracts and/or Wool LDPs thru April 18, 2008. As soon as any new information is received regarding a new farm bill or extension of the 2002 Farm Bill for one year, I will publicize the information as soon as possible.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Don't forget there is still an ongoing sign-up for crop disaster. Producers who had either crop insurance or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage may qualify for disaster payments for eligible weather related crop losses. The program covers 2005, 2006 and 2007 and will pay you for whatever year your qualifying loss was the greatest.



Please don't forget only those producers with crop insurance or NAP will be eligible for any assistance. With that thought in mind producers may want to consider purchasing crop insurance and NAP where applicable for future protection. NAP covers all crops NOT covered by crop insurance and the cost is only \$100 per crop with a maximum county cost of \$300 and it covers all the acres you have in the county. This may be a pretty good deal for you hay producers.

CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATION

If you will be adding any new land this year or dropping any, the sooner you can let us know the better. We can then make the necessary corrections and get your records up to date. This will make it a lot smoother when/if you want to sign up in any programs this spring.



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DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DDAP-III)

Sign up is underway for dairy producers with qualifying weather related losses in milk production for any of the years 2005 thru 2007. We will need your milk production for the years 2003 and 2004 (your base year) and any of the years you are applying for and the number of cows that produced that milk.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

There's still time remaining to sign up eligible land in the CREP although the end may be in sight. At the present time eligible producers can enroll eligible land for a 15 year contract in the CREP. Basically we're talking about land that has been into a small grain or row crop 4 of the 6 years 1996 thru 2001 and is adjacent to some sort of water resource concern. Producers receive an annual payment for each year and each acre of the contract. Annual payments could run from \$40 to around \$100 per acre depending on the soil type and eligibility. In many cases there's also a \$150 per acre up front signing bonus. Basically you'd be expected to plant either grasses or trees and shrubs and we'd be cost-sharing up to 140% of the eligible expenses, again, depending on the practice and the land eligibility. We're mostly talking strips of land here, not whole fields. If you are at all interested, please don't hesitate to contact the office for complete details.

DICK RANKIN TO RETIRE

The time has finally come for me to move on. I will be retiring May 2. A new CED will be hired to replace me and I'm sure you will continue to receive the high level of service you've come to expect and deserve. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and I appreciate the patience you've shown. I remember like yesterday when I interviewed for the job here (spring 1975) and Dan Bolton, Bob Sheehan and Roger McMahon decided to select me. I'm glad they did. Thank you for the opportunity to have served you. Continued success to all of you.



There is a retirement open house on May 2nd here at the office from 10:00 to 3:00. I'd be happy to see you and say so long. Hope to see you then.

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