



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOUR FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE FOR INGHAM AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES

Newsletter #2 – January 28, 2008

## INGHAM/LIVINGSTON COUNTY FSA OFFICE

8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
521 N. Okemos St.  
Mason, MI 48854  
517-676-4644 ext 2  
Fax 517-676-7011

## STAFF

Ronda K. Bozek-Smith, CED  
JoAnna Rogers, PT  
Karen Vozarik, PT  
Gretchen Wasper, PT  
Ralph Huss, Field Asst.

## FARM LOAN PROGRAM

Dave Hemker, FLM  
989-723-8263 ext. 2

## COMBINED COUNTY COMMITTEE

Jeff Oesterle, Chairperson  
Terrance Butler  
Vern Elliott  
Gary Hoisington  
Joan Wright Advisor

### 2008 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS FSA Office Closed

Jan. 21... MLK Jr. Birthday  
Feb. 18... Washington's Birthday  
May 26... Memorial Day  
July 4 .... Independence Day  
Sept. 1... Labor Day  
Oct. 13... Columbus Day  
Nov. 11... Veterans Day  
Nov. 27... Thanksgiving Day  
Dec. 25... Christmas Day



COC Member Elections closed on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007.

**Jeff Oesterle** was re-elected to represent **LAA 2**, including Alaiedon, Aurelius, Delhi, Vevay, Onondaga and Leslie Townships.

**Vern Elliott** was re-elected to represent **LAA 3**, including Bunker Hill, Ingham, Stockbridge, and White Oak Townships.

*The staff and COC of Ingham/Livingston FSA would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Eddie Thomas. Eddie has spent the past 9 years serving as the County Committee Advisor. We appreciate the dedication and service he has shown to the FSA, the County Committee, the Producers, and our Community through the years. We would like to extend our appreciation of a job well done, as well as our thanks and best wishes.*

## LATEST FARM BILL NEWS

Public information regarding the new Farm Bill is very limited. Although speculation is abundant, there is not yet a program to present to producers. With the new bill, any information relating to program payments and provisions will not be available until regulations are written and sign-up is announced. Until then, other program areas directly affected by the farm bill cannot be addressed. Only the 2005-2007 Disaster Programs and 2008 Wool and Mohair program can be signed up at this time.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **January 31, 2008** - Last day to request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs
- **March 15, 2008** – Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on spring non-insurable crops
- **March 15, 2008** – Deadline for accepting 2008 crop MAL and LDP requests for ungraded wool and mohair
- **March 31, 2008** - Deadline for 2007 Wheat and Honey loans and LDPs
- **May 31, 2008** - Final date to request 2007 Corn and Soybean Loans and LDPs

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE VISITING THE INGHAM COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
Call 517-676-4644 Ext. 2

## **DISASTER PROGRAMS NOW INCLUDE THE 2007 CROP YEAR!**

### **2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)**

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered 35% quantity and 25% quality losses to 2005 or 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest. *Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.*

Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP quantity losses began October 15, 2007. No deadline has been announced. Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a future date. A quality loss of 25% or greater is needed to qualify. In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate. FSA includes all harvested production, unharvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP. The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. CDP requires a 35 percent loss of expected production; therefore, you may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under NAP or RMA coverage. Please call for an appointment.

**View this newsletter on line! Go to:**

**<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/>**

**Click on State Offices at the top, select Michigan from the map and click on Newsletters in the left hand column.**

## **LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

A Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is part of this disaster legislation. LCP compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between **January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007**. To be eligible counties MUST have a *secretarial determination* for that specific weather event. You must have had a loss of pasture and/ or have receipts of purchased extra feed. Receipts must be signed by the vendor and must include vendor's name, address and telephone #. Type and quantity and cost of the feed purchased is required to be included on the receipt. These receipts must be original copies. Please call for an appointment.

**PLEASE NOTE:** for future disaster program eligibility, it may be in your best interest to purchase NAP and/or crop insurance for 2008 and future crop years.

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## **USDA - NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE STAFF CHANGES**

If you have not visited the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in the last year, you would not have noticed some new faces. They are Julius Pigott and Misa Cady. Julius transferred from Jackson County in January 2007 and Misa transferred from Pennsylvania in the summer of 2006. They have been busy administrating the various programs under the 2002 Farm Bills.

There are still opportunities for land owners or land users to take advantage of cost share assistance to construct Waste Storage Facilities, Agrichemical Containment Facilities, Grassed Waterways, Filter Strips and Buffer Strips. In addition, there are incentive payments to practice Nutrient and Pest Management, No-Till Farming and Prescribed Grazing.

Please contact the office at 517- 676-5543, ext. 3 for further information.

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## INGHAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFERS THE FARM\*A\*SYST PROGRAM TO AREA LANDOWNERS

The Farm\*A\*Syst Program is being offered through ICD to residents of Ingham and Livingston Counties. This program is available to anyone whom owns a farmstead (no matter what size, farms can be from ½ acre to several thousand acres) in the service area. The program is designed to ensure you and your families are protected with an emergency plan in the event of an emergency such as a fire or chemical spill. Also, by participating you will discuss topics such as fuel, fertilizer and pesticide storage and usage, if applicable, at your farm. The technician has several items they can disperse at no-charge to help enhance your safety and your operation's efficiency. By participating landowners can learn about, and protect the environment as well. Some of the items that the technician can offer at no charge include: emergency tubes/plans, spill kits (fire extinguisher, tyvek suit, gloves, safety glasses, Dri-rite, shovel, broom/dustpan, and respirator), placards, fuels tank labels, signs, triple rinse nozzles with bags and more. This is a great service that ICD encourages everyone to take advantage of. The service is paid for by taxes on fertilizers and is a free and confidential program. Call for details or to schedule an appointment to take advantage of this great service today.  
517-676-2290

## CLU CERTIFICATION

The Ingham/Livingston FSA staff is continuing to work on correcting the CLU maps and updating Farm Records. We are making good progress and appreciate your patience during this long and detailed process. The certification process involves many steps including cross referencing existing Farm Records with the data from the imagery. Some records are accurate and need very little adjustment, however others need considerable adjusting. We are making the corrections on a farm by farm basis, land owners and/or operators will receive notification of any needed action as we proceed. Acreage may increase, decrease, or stay the same after CLU is certified. If the acreage changes, the change must be recorded in the system to ensure that farm records are properly maintained.

## RECONSTITUTION REMINDER...

What Are the Available Methods of Division?

### Estate Method

The estate method is the division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

### Designation by Landowner Method

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.

### DCP Cropland Method

The DCP cropland method is the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

### Default Method

The default method is the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## REMEMBER TO NOTIFY FSA:

*In order for us to serve you better, please contact our office with any record changes in your farming operation such as:*

**Development** – any new parcels of land removed for houses needs to be reported.

**Owner/Operator** – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share agreements.

**Reconstitutions** – changes that require farm combinations or divisions due to sale of land or change in operators should be reported as soon as possible.

**Farm Operating Plan** – Any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person”

and/or “actively engaged” determinations.

**Update AD-1026** – when you pick up any new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program benefits.

**Address** – Any contact information change should be updated for notification purposes.

**Direct Deposit** – If you have changed an accounts or bank, updates are needed to ensure payments are deposited correctly and in a timely manner.

## WOOL AND MOHAIR



The final date to request a loan or LDP on wool or mohair harvested in 2007, is January 31, 2008. Since the market price has been below the loan rate there has been a loan deficiency payment in effect.

The 2008 wool and mohair season has started. Sheep owners must come in to sign a CCC-633EZ prior to selling their 2008 production. Please call for an appointment.

### *Foreign Landowners Reporting Requirement*

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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 within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% 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.

## THINKING OF TILING OR CLEARING LAND?

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules.** Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026. Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 0250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.