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**Midland County Committee**  
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Member – Jack Terwillegar  
Advisor – Erna Varner  
**Executive Director Dave Claerhout**

#### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact us at the phone numbers listed.

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# *FSA News*

*Midland County*

*May 2008*

### ***Its time to report your acres!***

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by July 15, 2008 for all spring seeded crops.

### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.



### **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

### **GIS MAPPING SYSTEMS**



We currently are creating a new set of computer-generated maps for all farms containing *cropland* acres. In the process, we reviewed all field boundary lines on aerial imagery taken in the 1990's and recorded this information in the computer.

We will be mailing updated computer generated maps to producers for review. These maps will replace old paper maps used for FSA business.

Computer based mapping will help us provide higher quality maps and more accurate acreage determinations. **The potential changes to boundary lines and resulting acreage will affect future program participation.**

## Disaster Program for 2007 Crops

On January 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 FSA announced that all crops harvested in 2007 year would be included in the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP) **however**, you still must be covered by crop insurance or a NAP policy to be eligible for the program. The CDP program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Once again, 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.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Also included in the disaster assistance, is the Livestock Compensation Program, which compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters for the 2007 crop year. **Please contact us for an appointment to signup.**

### Bank Account Changes

FSA payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. 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.

## Trusts & Limited Liability Company's

Is the land you own recorded at the Register of Deeds office as a Trust or LLC? Trusts and/or LLCs' are considered separate and distinct entities and **must** be reported when completing eligibility forms for farm programs. Ownership records listed at FSA **must** match that of which is listed on your deed to be eligible to participate in Farm Programs.

### Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

### Livestock Compensation Program

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2007, thru December 31<sup>st</sup>. who suffered losses due to drought.

Eligible livestock under LCP must 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 produced 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 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.

### Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## 2008 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. FSA will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. The agency is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

Dates to Remember	
May 26	Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day.
July 4	Office Closed Independence Day
June 30	Deadline to report spring seeded small grain
July 15	Deadline to report all other crops

