



July 2008

# Monroe FSA News

## Monroe County USDA Service Center

Monroe County FSA  
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Monroe, MI. 49161-4060

734-241-8540 (phone)  
734-241-9432 (fax)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
James VanBuskirk  
Carmen L. Cousino  
Richard Janssens  
Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of  
Month

**FSA INFO WEBSITE**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Staff**  
Paul Manol,  
County Executive Director

Phone Extension 107

**Farm Program Section:**  
Carole Bogoski 110  
Kimberly Werstein 109  
Dawn Pluff 113  
Roger Bezek 108

Vacant,  
Field Reporter

**Farm Loan Section:**  
**Located at the  
Lenawee County FSA  
Office – Adrian, MI.**  
(servicing Monroe Co.)  
**PH: 517-263-7400**

Michael Jordon  
Farm Loan Manager 110  
Rebecca Deline 111  
Judy Kellie 113  
Susan Lerch 112  
Katy McCracken 103

## COMPUTER GENERATED MAPS Common Land Unit Certification

### Changing To a New Map System

We have been involved in a time consuming process for the last two years converting our maps to a Geographical Information System (GIS). This process will become our normal business process when working with maps. We are now ready to begin **Stage 2**, where we will be mailing maps to you to verify field boundaries and data is correct.

### County Office Maps - A New Look

The map you receive in the mail will be by tract. You will no longer be able to see all the land in an entire township section. The computer adjusts the size of the fields to fit the paper. In some cases the computer may make small fields so big that you can no longer verify boundaries. If you accidentally receive a distorted map, please contact us and we will print a new map. At the bottom of each map is a legend which contains data about the map: county data, farm number, tract number, etc. Due to a recent agency update, the following information has been added:

**HEL** - Highly Erodible;  
**NHEL** - Not Highly Erodible; and  
**Undetermined HEL** - Blank.

Wetlands were delineated through the use of maps made available by NRCS. Most tracts have delineations, but some do not. Wetlands are marked with the following symbols:

**Red Circle** - Restricted Use;  
**Yellow Triangle** - Limited Restrictions; and  
**Green Square** - Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions.

Please contact the office for limitations of use for the various wetland labels.

## What You Must Verify!

Please review these maps to make sure your boundaries and data are correct. This includes if you have sold property, acquired new farmland, taken ground out of production for houses or buildings or no longer farm an area. At this time we want to ensure field boundaries and data are correct. Acres can **not** be disputed, but can be used as a tool to help you identify possible boundary errors. Please keep in mind there is always a potential for human error. If you notice that a land determination was not transferred (such as Wetland or HEL determination) to the new map please contact the office. We would like these maps as correct as possible to avoid violations.

## Who Will Receive Maps?

Each owner and operator who is currently attached to the tract will be mailed a map with a letter of explanation. **You are provided 30 days to address any needed corrections.** To make this process easier, most operators will receive all maps at the same time with a listing of the farms and owners to be used as a reference for the maps. Owners may receive maps separately if there is more than one operator connected to their land. This would also include situations where an individual is owner and operator on CRP but rents the remainder of the cropland to someone else.

## When Will I Receive My Maps?

Our goal is to have all maps ready for mailing by as soon as possible. However, at this point in time, we are only a little over half done. We anticipate the first 2500 maps will be printed stuffed, postmarked and in the mail on **July 16, 2008.**

## Map Data

Please keep in mind what you are seeing is a copy of the 2005 ortho-imagery layer (not the old map(s) we have always used) and has now been added to the computer.

### Correcting Field Boundaries

**Stage 3: Correcting field boundaries and data.** You will need to visit the office if you determine a boundary line or the data is incorrect. We are asking that you bring the map back to the office with the proper documentation as described in the letter. We will make a copy of your map and note any boundary discrepancies. Once all owners and operators have received their maps, we will begin making map corrections.

### When Will the New Maps Become Effective?

Please keep in mind that any changes made to these maps will not become effective immediately. This project is completely separate from the maps and the farm records we are currently using for program purposes. **Stage 4: Activation.** The acres from the new maps will be activated and used for all 2009 programs.

### Business as Usual

Map changes will **not** affect 2008 programs or crop certification. After you plant your 2008 crops you will certify your crops on the same maps and acres that you have certified on for the last 10 years.

### Program Changes

Both CRP contracts and farm bases could be affected by the updated map acres. **Stage 5: Contract data will be adjusted to match the new farm records data.** At this point in time we have no way to determine if your farms will be affected. Please watch future newsletters for any updates on this process.

### A Familiar Face - Welcome Roger Bezek

Roger Bezek was recently selected as the new Program Technician for Monroe County. As many of you know, Roger is no stranger to agriculture in Monroe County as he grew up on a farm here and remains active in county agriculture, including Farm Bureau. He has long been associated with the Monroe County FSA Office as our field reporter. He also has extensive experience as a loss adjuster. Roger will now handle the following programs administered by the Farm Service Agency:

- Farm Records
- Reconstitutions
- Compliance

Please help us welcome Roger as he assumes his new duties with FSA.

### A Fond Farewell – Kimberly Werstein

Kim, who has been a vital part of the Monroe County Office serving as a Program Technician for the past six years, was recently selected to fill a Price Support Program Specialist position in the Colorado State Office in the Denver suburbs. Her last day in Monroe will be July 16. While we will certainly miss Kim, we congratulate her on her promotion and wish her all the best in her future with the Agency!

### County Committee (COC) Nominations

This fall, producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2 (Bedford, Erie, Ida, Summerfield and Whiteford Townships) will be voting to elect their representative on the Monroe COC. The locally-elected COC is a unique system by which Federal farm programs are administered locally. COC reviews county office operations and provides input/decisions on how programs are managed. This grassroots approach gives farmers a much-needed say in how FSA actions affect their communities and individual operations.

Nominations for candidates will be accepted from June 15 to August 1, 2008. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available at the County Office, 1137 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/election](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/election) under the *News & Events* tab (top of web page). You must then click on *County Committee Elections* (right side of web page).

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in early November and are due back at the County Office by December 1 and will be counted by December 8, 2008. The newly-elected COC member will then begin their 3-year term on January 1, 2009.

### Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported **within 15 days** of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported **no later than 15 days after** the final planting date to ensure eligibility and to maintain crop history.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For crops *other than* NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, **the deadline for certifying acreage reports has been extended to August 15<sup>th</sup> for all commodities.**

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for fall seeded small grains and July 15 for all other crops, *or* 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

### 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:

<b>Wheat</b>	<b>October 25th</b>
<b>Oats</b>	<b>May 20th</b>
<b>Corn</b>	<b>June 5th</b>
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>June 15th</b>
<b>Dry Edible Beans</b>	<b>June 25th</b>

## 2008 Direct/Counter-Cyclical Program

Sign up for the 2008 DCP has begun and will run through September 30. The 2008 Farm Bill provides a continuation of the DCP program. Base acres that were in effect in 2007 will be in effect for 2008 and payments will be computed on 85% of the base acres. Direct payment rates are:

- Corn \$0.28/bu.
- Soybeans \$0.44/bu.
- Wheat \$0.52/bu.

For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008.

Producers with base acreage of 10 acres or less may not be eligible to participate in the DCP program unless they are a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer.

Also, prior to sign-up:

- Report any changes to your farm or farming operation so that we can keep your record current. This includes changes in land ownership or operators.
- If the land in your operation hasn't changed, do you have a signed lease from the landowner?
- A signed rental agreement *or* the landowner's signature on the DCP Contract is required.
- All farmers who produce a crop on the base acres are entitled to share in the DCP payment. Landowners who do not have an interest in the crop are not eligible to receive a DCP payment
- Update your payment limitation documents and other program eligibility records if you already haven't.
- Changes that require **farm reconstitutions** should be reported as soon as possible to update your records. Farm divisions should be considered when you do not have a firm lease. We cannot enroll a farm with any changes pending, so please let us know of your changes well before your appointment to sign up.
- Producers and landowners who previously executed an FSA-211, Power Of Attorney, authorizing an attorney-in-fact to act on their behalf for anything other than "***all current and future programs***" will need to execute a new FSA-211.

For questions or to schedule an appointment to sign up, call Carole at 734-241-8540, ext 110.

## Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

FSA has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

## State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Starting July 1, 2008, owners and operators of certain cropland in Monroe County may enroll eligible land in a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as CP38. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct sign-up for SAFE on a continuous (ongoing) basis.

Through continuous CRP sign-up, USDA accepts offers by producers, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements.

Producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP programs at their local FSA service center. Producers within a SAFE area can submit offers to voluntarily enroll acres in CRP contracts for 10-15 years (the contract length depends on the SAFE proposal authorized for the area). In exchange, producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives and cost-share assistance to establish habitat-enhancing natural covers on eligible land.

Details on this program are still being finalized. Additional information will be provided in newsletters and press releases.

## NAP Production Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2008 production records as soon as harvest is complete. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

## Timely File Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on for **ALL CROPS**, including grasses.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office **within 15 days of the occurrence** of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Monroe County FSA Office  
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Monroe, MI. 48161-4040



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT #19

**Temporary**  
**Return Service Requested**

**IMPORTANT**

**Maintenance of CRP Cover**

Attention Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants: Cover maintenance is **your** responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. Mowing for cosmetic purposes or general weed control is **not** allowed and **will** result in financial penalties. Mowing maintenance activities may be allowed once per year if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, but only that portion of the planting in need of maintenance can be mowed. **Mowing is only allowed between August 1st & August 20th** to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover. **Non-mowing maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1st & March 31st** and may only be done **once** per year if needed to maintain the approved cover. Contact the FSA Office **prior** to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres. Producers **must** request permission to perform maintenance activities prior to the date specified in their contracts and each project must be approved by the COC on a case-by-case basis.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

June 25	Sign-up begins for DCP
July 4	Independence Day (office closed)
July 18	Final date to enroll in Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) or the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
August 1	Final date to submit COC Nomination forms
August 15	Final date to report all crops
Sept. 30	Sign-up ends for DCP
Continues	2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program
Continues	Continuous CRP and CREP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

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