



June 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 3rd Wed of
Month

FSA INFO WEBSITE
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 **June 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.

Maps (continued)

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.

Monroe Country FSA Welcomes Roger Bezek

Roger Bezek was recently selected as the new Farm Program Technician for Monroe County. Roger is no stranger to agriculture around these parts. He grew up on a farm in Monroe County and remains active in county agriculture, including Farm Bureau. He has long been associated with the Monroe County FSA Office as our field reporter, serving primarily in an "on-call" capacity. 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.

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 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.

Acres Reporting

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

Failed acres 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.

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

Acres 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 acres 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:

Wheat	October 25th
Oats	May 20th
Corn	June 5th
Soybeans	June 15th
Dry Edible Beans	June 25th

\$

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producer's who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or cost break down of new equipment requested.
- Covers farm storage, grain handling equipment, grain dryers, etc.
- Pay a \$45.00 application fee.
- Provide to FSA an Income Statement and Balance Sheet for review of financial capabilities.
- Purchase crop insurance on the crops grown in the county where the facility is constructed.
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee.
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility to ensure FSA security is not at risk.

Finally... We Have a Farm Bill

Congress has overridden the Presidential veto of H.R. 2419, the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008". While final details and program provisions are still sketchy, the new Farm Bill:

- Maintains programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, including DCP, with minor changes;
- Offers the option to enroll in a new revenue-based counter-cyclical program (Average Crop Revenue Election or ACRE), beginning in crop year 2009;
- Reforms eligibility and payment limitation criteria with regard to adjusted gross income (AGI) caps;
- Increases target prices for wheat, sorghum, barley, oats, & soybeans, increasing producers' opportunity to receive counter - cyclical payments when prices are low;
- Rebalances loan rates on wheat, barley, oats, & oilseeds, enhancing the basic safety net for these commodities;
- Increases conservation spending by \$7.9 billion.

Of course, this is just a small sampling of the many facets of the 2008 Farm Bill. We will pass on more intricate details to you as we receive them.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that live-stock 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 crop-land in Monroe County may enroll eligible land in a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conserva-tion 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 produc-tion 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 report-ing 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 pro-ducer 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 be-come 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.

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

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
Continues	2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program
Continues	Continuous CRP and CREP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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Fun and Games



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