



July-August 2008

# Presque Isle-Cheboygan County News

Presque Isle-  
Cheboygan  
USDA Service Center

Presque Isle-  
Cheboygan FSA  
4050 Michigan Ave.  
Onaway, MI. 49765  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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

County Committee  
Edward Reimann-  
Chairperson  
Clifford Tollini-Vice  
Chairperson  
Sonja Kuffel-Member  
Wayne Schalk-  
Member  
Thomas Woiderski-  
Member

The County Commit-  
tee meets the third  
Wednesday of each  
month starting at  
10:30 a.m.

County Office Staff  
Robin Grainger,  
Program Technician

Gale Dunn, Program  
Technician

County Executive  
Director  
Carmen A. Church,  
[carmen.church@mi.usda.gov](mailto:carmen.church@mi.usda.gov)

**FSA for Kids**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

## Reporting Crop Acreage

It is that time of year again to start looking at reporting your crops for 2008. The deadline for certifying crops has been extended to August 15th for all commodities. Please call the office for an appointment as soon as you have completed planting all of your crops for 2008.

## DCP SIGNUP BEGINS!!!

Signup is underway for the 2008 DCP program. Producer's can visit their local FSA office or sign-up online. They can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access.

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. Advance payments will be issued as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

Producers with base acreage 10 acres or less will not receive a direct, counter-cyclical, or average crop revenue election program payment, unless the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or a limited resource farmer or rancher.

Call the office today and make an appointment to sign-up. Final Date to sign-up is September 30th, 2008.



## AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification

All producers are required to notify the FSA Office and complete form AD-1026 before they intend to do any of the following.

\*\* Convert wetlands by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, tiling, land clearing or any other means that would allow the planting of any crop, pasture, agricultural commodity, or other such crops. \*\*

\*\*Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985.\*\*

\*\* Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible fields unless actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system. NRCS will make the determination if the area in question is a wetland or highly erodible land. \*\*

Failure to follow established wetland and HEL regulations will result in the loss of program benefits for current and possibly future years.

## Loans Available for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises.

Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years.

Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.

Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.

Does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's median size.

## Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs for 2008

The 2008 Farm Bill appropriated for Supplemental Disaster Programs

- SURE – Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock indemnity Program (LIP)

For producers to be eligible they must purchase at least the CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

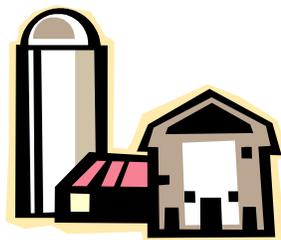
Sales closing dates have passed for 2008. However, farmers may obtain a waiver for 2008 only; by paying an administrative fee of \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 for the county or \$900 total for all counties.

This buy in fee is non-refundable and must be paid no later than September 16, 2008. Contact office for more details.

## Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it.

Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent delay of payments.



## What is Mid-Contract Management of CRP?

Mid-Contract Management of CRP are activities that must be performed on certain practices to ensure the original plant diversity, wildlife benefits, and protections of the soil and water resources are present for the life of the contract.

For CRP practices with grasses, legumes, & wildflowers, research has shown that typically 5-6 years after establishment the site becomes dominated by a thick growth of the grasses.

To ensure wildlife habitat benefits in these sites, management is required to encourage legumes and wildflowers, and to ensure the grass is not too thick to limit small wildlife species from traveling through the cover to meet their needs.

This is your responsibility and must be followed according to your conservation plan. If a variance is needed for the above stated policy, please contact the office. Variances can be pre-approved on a case-by-case basis.

## Youth Loans

FSA can make loans to youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

The maximum loan size is \$5,000. To qualify:

- Be between 10 and 20 years old
- Live in a town of less than 10,000
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income producing project in a supervised program of work.

Applicants must also be capable of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the FSA Office in person or by phone.

## Farm Record Changes

If you have purchased or sold land, leased additional land or changed tenants, please notify the FSA office so farm records may be updated.

For Land Purchases:

- A copy of the deed is required
- All landowners must furnish their tax ID # if they are enrolling in a program.

## 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.

## USDA ONLINE SERVICES

USDA Agencies (FSA, NRCS, RD) have available online service on the World Wide Web.

The address of the web site is <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

The web site features information such as forms (eForms), fact sheets, LDP rates, customer statements, and much more. Additional options are available to provide on-line service for applying for program benefits. To access these secured applications, a user id and password must be obtained. All producers with internet access are encouraged to obtain an eAuthentication Level 2 account. Contact the FSA office for further details. Also available is the FSA web site where more information about FSA programs can be obtained. The address is [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## CRP Cover Maintenance

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, only if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, and only on the portion of CRP in need of maintenance. Mowing is permitted between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate regrowth for winter cover.

*Producers may request permission to perform maintenance activities outside the specified timeframe, but each request has to be approved by the Emmet-Charlevoix County Committee on a case-by-case basis. Plan ahead and contact the FSA office prior to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres.*

All 2008 requests to mow will be reviewed by the County Committee.

Mowing on an annual basis is not an acceptable method of weed and woody growth control. The County Committee has the right to deny maintenance requests if previous mowing has not adequately solved the problem. Spraying a herbicide may be a viable option, but approval must be requested in writing and granted by the County Committee **BEFORE** you begin the maintenance activity.



Presque Isle-Cheboygan  
FSA Office  
4050 Michigan Ave.  
Onaway, MI. 49765



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

## Dates To Remember

August 1 – Final date to submit Nomination form for COC election.

August 15 – Final date to report ALL crops.

September 16 – Final date to purchase NAP for 2008 crops.

September 30 – 2008 DCP signup ends.

September 30 – Final date to purchase NAP coverage for 2008 for-age crops.

Ongoing  
Continuous CRP,  
Farm Storage Facility

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The farm storage facility loan program is still underway where producers can take a loan up to \$100,000.00 for seven years to construct farm storage for agricultural commodities produced on their farm.

If you are interested in adding farm storage or increasing the capacity of storage on your farm please contact our office for more details. The equipment purchased for the loan must be new equipment and cannot be used equipment.



## 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.



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, audiotope, 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 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.