



Farm Service Agency

Newsletter #2008/00001

February/March 2008

SHIAWASSEE County FSA News

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY Farm Service Agency

1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867
(989) 723-8263, Ext. 2
(989) 723-8491 (Fax)

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Nicholas A. Zdunic
John T. Stasa
George J. Zmitko I

ADVISOR

Julia Birchmeier

OFFICE STAFF

Louri A. Miller
Larry R. Godfrey
Nancy J. Vogl
Angela J. Case
Bernadette Schneider

FIELD ASSISTANT

William Darnell

FARM LOAN MANAGER

David Hemker

FARM LOAN PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

Teresa Fejes

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2nd Thursday of the month

COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAYNE A. VAN NESS

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY FSA WELCOME'S TERESA FEJES AS THE NEW FARM LOAN PROGRAM TECHNICIAN.....

Teresa Fejes is no stranger to agriculture. She grew up on a farm in Genesee County and assists her father and brother on their current farming operation. She previously worked in the Genesee County Farm Service Agency Office as a Student Intern as well as a temporary intermittent employee.

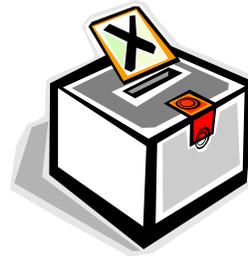
Teresa attended the University of Michigan and has received a degree in Communication and has also attended Michigan State University and has received a business certificate in Ag Industry.

She will be working under the direct supervision of David Hemker, Farm Loan Manager regarding the Direct and Guaranteed Loan Processing in the counties of Shiawassee, Livingston and Ingham.

Please help us welcome Teresa as she begins her new career with FSA.

With this change, Louri Miller previous Program Technician assigned under the Farm Loan Program Division will once again become a "Full Time" Farm Program Technician. Her duties will include the Price Support Program, Livestock Programs, Administrative Programs as well as maintaining her "Lead Program Technician" status through the Shared Management Operation of Genesee/Shiawassee.

With all the changes that have occurred in both offices, I will be revising my schedule between the two offices. I will be in Genesee County on Monday, Wednesday's and every other Friday and in Shiawassee County on Tuesday's and Thursday's. *Jayne A. van Ness, CED*



ELECTION RESULTS

The Shiawassee County Committee Election results are as follows:

- George J. Zmitko I – Member
- Lynn Garber – 1st Alternate
- Donald Stevens – 2nd Alternate





CROP DISASTER PROGRAM CHANGES.....

The Farm Service Agency, Crop Disaster Program was announced in the November/December 2007 newsletter. Changes to the program have since then been announced. Producers who suffered crop losses due to damaging weather or other related conditions for crop years 2005, 2006 and the **entire crop year of 2007** on crops insured through RMA or NAP policies are now eligible. Losses must be in excess of 35% for quantity and/or 25% for quality losses.

For additional details, contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

2008 FARM BILL STILL PENDING

Information regarding the 2008 farm bill and the pending 2008 enrollment is still on hold. Some information has been received through press releases, articles, etc. but nothing has been finalized and enrollment options, dates and/or deadlines have not been established.

Please keep on eye on newsletters or other farm articles published regarding the final implementation of the farm bill provisions.

FARM LEASING PROVISIONS

To prepare for the upcoming enrollment into the 2008 farm program, you are reminded of the following:

Farm Program payments must be issued in the same manner as how the crop is shared. Producers who cash rent a farm, then sub-lease that farm on a share basis will have a reduction in payment based on a cropland factor.

All written cash rental agreements must be year specific and must also indicate that the land is being leased on a "Cash Rent Basis".

If you claim your farm benefits to the IRS under an Assumed Name, LLC, partnership or other name, this information must be presented to the county office to ensure payments are issued accurately.

Once again, all eligibility paperwork will be reviewed in advance of enrollment. Please review this information thoroughly.

Report Farm Changes timely.....

Changes in farmland, cropland, operator and/or owner changes must be reported to the Farm Service Agency Office timely to ensure accurate records for the upcoming enrollment period. This process can be started immediately rather than reporting those changes during sign up and/or certification.

Please do not delay, report changes today!



BEWARE OF CROP INSURANCE SCHEMES

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal Crop Insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA reminds all Federal Crop Insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes.

Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners for certain types of livestock feed losses and increased feed costs that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 in eligible disaster counties as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

If you would like additional details on this program, please feel free to contact the County Office.

FARM CROP CERTIFICATION REMINDERS.....

Even without a farm bill currently, producer's are reminded that crop acreage reporting continues to play an important role through the FSA Offices and RMA Offices. Certification of crop acreages are needed to maintain farm history which may determine eligibility in future farm programs as well as the Conservation programs administered by FSA.

Acreage reports must be filed timely. Those deadlines are:

- June 30th for fall seeded crops.
- July 15th for spring seeded crops.

Planting dates are also a requirement at the time of certification.

FAILED ACREAGE PROVISIONS

Farm Service Agency procedure states that you must report failed acreage at the time of disaster occurrence. This report will protect farm history and allows FSA to reconcile acreage requests from Risk Management Agency (Crop Insurance). Please timely file any potential crop losses and/or failed crop acreage timely.

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
- Sugar Beets 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 both 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.

Interest rates are locked in for the 7 year period of the loan. Annual payments are due starting one year from the date of disbursement. Loan funding is set at 85% of the total cost and will be disbursed after completion.

Shiawassee County FSA Office
1900 S. Morrice Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Lansing, MI
Permit #19

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The USDA, Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is still available to all eligible producer's and/or landowner's in Shiawassee County in certain areas.

To request or inquire about this program, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office to determine cropland eligibility. Additional eligibility requirements must be met for approval.

For additional details contact FSA in Shiawassee at (989) 723-8263, Ext. 2 and visit with Bernadette.

NRCS District, CREP Technician's Bill Kuechenmeister and Donna Flagg are also available to assist regarding conservation planning and seeding requirements.

COMMON LAND UNIT CERTIFICATION

The Shiawassee County Office is in the process of updating the new CLU mapping which will be used in the near future. Prior to implementation of this CLU mapping layer, each landowner and operator will receive a letter and a copy of their map designating their farm number, tract number and acreage for each parcel. If you disagree with that information you will have the ability to review and work with the county office to correct any discrepancies.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 incomes derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 72-6382 (TDD).