



# Farm Service Agency

## Washtenaw-Wayne County - May 2008

Issue 2

### Address

7203 Jackson Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Phone:** (734)761-8789

**Fax:** (734) 662-1686

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Walter Rochowski  
Luther Schaible  
Robert Breuninger  
Marilyn Gordon

### Farm Program Staff

Ruth Barker  
Lori Maulbetsch  
Lori Terreault  
Laura Whitaker  
Linda Rector - CED

### Farm Loan Manager

Michael Jordon  
(517) 263-7400 x 110

### 2008 - Office Closed:

**May 26** Memorial Day  
**July 4** - Independence Day

### Dates to Remember

**May 31** - Final date for  
2007 Corn & Soybean  
loans

**June 30** - Final date to  
report fall seeded  
small grains

**July 15** - Final date to  
report all other  
Crops

### Ongoing

- Continuous CRP & CREP
- Farm Storage Facility Loans
- 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program & Livestock Compensation Program

### 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered 35% quantity and 25% quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted **before December 31, 2007**. You may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under the Noninsured Assistance Program or Crop Insurance coverage. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest. **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.** Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP program is ongoing with no deadline at this time. Please contact this office for more details.



### Livestock Compensation Program

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is part of this disaster legislation. LCP compensates producers for certain types of feed losses and increase feed cost resulting from natural disasters occurring between **January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007**. Producers must choose only one year to receive benefits, 2005, 2006, or 2007. LCP signup is underway and no deadline has been announced. Please contact this office for more details.



### Attention Producers, Landowners!

#### *Thinking of Tiling or Clearing land?*

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling or dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules.** Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026. Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently. Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits. **Remember any changes of field boundaries from the original determination may be cause to initiate a new AD-1026.**



### Farm Bill News

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. We will keep you informed of any updates through newsletters, radio announcements, and mailings.



## **Farm Crop Certification Reminders**

Producers 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 acreage reporting.

## **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
- Corn June 5th
- Soybeans June 15th
- Dry Edible Beans June 25th

## **Record Changes**

If there are any changes in your farming operation, *PLEASE* take time to come into the County Office and make those changes **NOW!** It is the perfect time to get these changes made, it will make signing into the new programs much easier on everyone!!



## **County Committee Meetings**

County Committee (COC) Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. There are times when the meeting may have to be canceled, please contact the County Office for meeting status.

## **FSA Farm Loans**

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers who can not obtain commercial credit from a bank or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.



## **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.

## **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 the applicant must:



- 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. For more information applicants should contact their applicable Farm Loan Officer. This information is located on page one.

## **Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes**



The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have approached producers with rebate 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**

## **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Sign Up**

Sign up for producers interested in CREP is on going and will continue until the acreage goal of 85,000 acres is met. Eligible acreage must be in the River Raisin watershed (this includes southwest part of Washtenaw county). Eligible practices include; Filter strips; Windbreaks; Wetland restorations; Riparian buffers.



**If you are interested please call the FSA Office or you may contact Lauren Lindemann, Conservation Programs Specialist at 517-263-7400 ext. 119.**

## **CRP Mid-Contract Management**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are reminded to review their Conservation Plan for mid-contract management requirements. Mid-contract management is necessary for certain CRP ground cover to ensure that original plant diversity, wildlife benefits, and protection of the soil and water resources are present for the life of the contract.

Washtenaw-Wayne County FSA  
7203 Jackson Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9506



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### ***SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION***

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment upon request.

### ***COMPLAINT PROCESS***

After an official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have four choices – an informal review with the original agency decision maker, an opportunity for mediation, appeal to the State Committee and appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD).

### ***CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS***

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

*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).*