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Special accommodation will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact us at the phone numbers listed.

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FSA News

Midland County

December 2006

DCP Sign Up Underway

We are now taking appointments for DCP sign-up. We can issue up to 22% of the 2007 advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Update your DCP contract and put the advance payment to work for your farm today. Farmers who want to update their contracts need to address land and business issues:

- Will you continue to rent the same property you rented last year? If not, notify the staff so we can update your farm records or perform a reconstitution to remove land from your farming operation.
- A cash-rent certification may be used if you rented the land last year; however, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until July 1, 2007.

The deadline to signup for 2007 DCP is June 1st. Applications filed after that date will be charged \$100.00 late filing fee for each farm. Recent software changes require additional time to enroll. If you have changes from the past year, contact us in advance to help speed the process up.

Please make an appointment to sign up if you haven't already.

Sign-up Online: Producers may sign-up for DCP at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcpdefault.htm>

To access the service; producers must have an active USDA e-Authentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jack Terwillegar! Jack was elected to represent farmers from Ingersol, Larkin, Homer, Midland, and Mt. Haley townships on the county committee. Jack was elected to his first term as a county committee member. Dave Terwillegar has finished his third term as committee member and we would like to thank him for 9 years of service to FSA. He did an outstanding job serving as the chairman of the committee for his last 3 years.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Bank Account Changes

FSA payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the county office staff if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Loan Program provides credit for family-size farms for operating (OL), farm ownership (FO) and emergency (EM) loan purposes. We currently have a disaster designation, which enables us to provide emergency loan assistance. This designation is based on 2006 production and physical losses due to excessive rain, flooding, hail and high winds which occurred on and after April 26, 2006.

We also have the youth loan program which can be used to finance a money making project for youth ages 10-20. These loans are often used to fund 4-H or FFA projects.

The loan program for Midland County is administered by the Farm Loan personnel located in the Mt Pleasant FSA office. They can be reached at 989 772-5927 for additional information or to schedule an appointment to discuss the various loan programs.

The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discrimination against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), because all or part of the applicant’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or because the

applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Attention Producers, Landowners

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drain to make cropping easier?
Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits

e-GOV Help available

Producers wishing to conduct their USDA business online can now do so. We can help you gain access to those USDA e-services that require authentication of the producer’s identity. The process is intended only for producers, not other types of USDA customers.

CREP Sign up

We are accepting applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is designed to reduce water and wind erosion on cropland and receive annual payments. Producers would receive annual per acre payments for 15 years.

Eligible land must have been cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 – 2001, or in a legume rotation and cropped 1 year out of the last 8, or is marginal pastureland.

Eligible CREP practices are filterstrips, field windbreaks, and or wetland restorations.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The application deadline date for the 2007 NAP

crops is March 15th. Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2007, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year’s coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2007 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Deadline to purchase NAP for spring seeded crops Deadline to purchase crop insurance
June 1st	Deadline to enroll in DCP
June 30	Deadline to report spring seeded small grain and CRP
July 15	Deadline to report all other crops