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### Midland County FSA

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# FSA News

Midland County

September 2007

## Disaster Programs Offered

In August, FSA announced a new Crop Disaster Program (CDP) which provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters, if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **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.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Signup for the program begins October 15<sup>th</sup>. Also included in the disaster assistance, is the Livestock Compensation Program, which compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters. Not all the details have been released for both the crop disaster program and Livestock Compensation Program as of yet.

## DCP Final Payments

Producers who were enrolled in the Direct Countercyclical Program will receive their final payments in late October. The final payments will be 78 % of the stated amount on the contract if an advance payment was requested. All those who didn't request an advance payment will receive 100% of the amount listed on the contract, provided fruits and vegetables were not planted on contract acres.

## DCP Signup?

Due to the fact that the Direct Counter Cyclical program expired with the Farm Bill, we do not have a commodity program for the 2008 year. We have heard rumors of extending the existing Farm Bill as well as an entirely new Farm Bill, but until congress acts we will continue to wait.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber. The application deadline date for the 2008 NAP crops is soon approaching. For alfalfa and fall seeded crops the deadline date is Sept. 30, 2007. Producers who already have coverage on 2007

NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, 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 2008 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.

### CRP Sign Up

We did not have a Conservation Reserve Program general sign up this fall. However, that does not mean producers with eligible cropland are out of luck. Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign up provisions which includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Offers are automatically accepted, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

To be eligible for continuous CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at

least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. Exceptions to the rule include,

- if the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- the ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law; or
- the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

### Note: CREP acreage is exempt from this rule.

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or certain marginal pastureland.

The following types of conservation practices are eligible for CRP continuous sign up: field windbreaks, riparian buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; and shallow water areas for wildlife, to name a few.

In Midland County the following conservation practices are eligible for CRP continuous sign up under the CREP: field windbreaks, riparian buffers; filter strips; wetland restorations; and other certain whole fields. As the name implies, financial benefits are enhanced for enrollment under the CREP.

In August, our soil rental rates were adjusted to be more equivalent to that of cash rent values in our county. The new soil rental rates are not retro active to existing contracts, but apply only to new contracts.

### Direct Deposit Payments

We are preparing to make final payments for CRP and the DCP programs. All payments made by FSA are directly deposited into your accounts. If you have changed your accounts, it is **your** responsibility to contact us to correct your direct deposit application. Payments made to producers with incorrect account information result in lengthy delays.

### 2007 FSA County Committee Elections

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA LAA-1 made up of Warren, Jerome, Edenville, Lincoln, Hope and Mills Townships will elect a representative to the Midland County FSA Committee this year.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007 and must be returned no later than December 3, 2007.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 30	Final date to purchase NAP coverage for Alfalfa
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Day Office Closed
October	CRP annual Payments issued
October	Final DCP Payments issued

