



December, 2006

MONROE FSA News

Monroe County USDA Service Center

Monroe County FSA
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI. 48161-4060

734-241-8540 (phone)
734-241-9432 (fax)

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

County Committee
Jack Doty, Chairperson
James VanBuskirk
Carmen L. Cousino
Meetings on 3rd Wed of
Month

FSA INFO WEBSITE
www.fsa.usda.gov

Staff

Farm Program Section:

Carole F. Bogoski, PT
Patricia Jackson, PT
Kimberly Werstein, PT
Karla Frammolino, PT
Roger Bezek, Field Reporter
Aaron Stockberger, CED

Farm Loan Section:
**Lenawee County FSA –
Adrian, MI.**
(servicing Monroe Co)
517-263-7400 (phone)

Michael Jordon, FLM
Rebecca Deline
Judy Kellie
Susan Lerch

Thank you to Monroe County Producers

From: Aaron Stockberger, CED

As some of you may already know, I have accepted the position as County Executive Director of the Fairfield County, Ohio FSA office. This move allows my wife and I to be much closer to our families, as we are both from Central Ohio. We are expecting our first baby in March and I felt the opportunity to move closer to our families was one I could not turn down.

I am sad to be leaving the staff and producers of Monroe County. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and have learned a great deal in the process.

I want to thank the staff, the County Committee, and all of the producers of Monroe County for making my time here a truly great experience.

My final day in the office will be December 21.

New Measurement Service Rates

Effective November 8, 2006, the rate for measurement services was increased. The increase was made by FSA nationwide. The new rate is based on the amount of time the measurement service takes instead of the number of bins or acres that are being measured.

The new rate calls for a flat \$30 basic farm fee. In addition, there is an hourly rate of \$16 for the first hour and \$8 every 30 minutes after the first hour. There is a minimum charge of one hour for each measurement service. Every measurement will now be at least \$46.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Carmen Cousino, who was re-elected to serve a 3-year term on the Monroe County FSA Committee. Carmen will represent Local Administrative Area 2, which consists of Summerfield, Ida, Whitford, Bedford, and Erie Townships.

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.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER- CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN UP

Sign up for the 2007 DCP began Oct. 1, 2006 and runs until June 1, 2007. Farms can be enrolled from June 1st to September 30th with a \$100 late fee per farm.

DCP is the annual commodity program based on the past crop planting history on your farm. Farm operators are eligible for this program as well as any farm owners with a share in the crop.

A farm owner who does not cash rent his land, may enroll in the program even if no crop will be planted. However, idle DCP acres must be protected from erosion and weeds must be controlled throughout the year.

Contact the county office to schedule an appointment to enroll your farm. When updating the 2007 contract, you may elect to receive your advance direct payments any time from now through September 2007. The advance direct payment this year is 22%, down from the 50% that many of you received last year.

Deadline to enroll without a late fee is June 1, 2007.



Signature Authority Review

This year local FSA offices have been directed to perform a review of all signature authority documentation. This includes Power of Attorney forms and any entity paperwork, including Corporations, LLC's, Partnerships, Trusts, and Estates that designate one person to sign on behalf of the entity.

During this review we have found that much of the documentation we have on file is incorrect. If the documentation we have on file for you is incorrect, you will be required to supply us with up-to-date Power of Attorney forms or entity paperwork before you will be allowed to sign on anyone's behalf.

If you are planning to sign on someone else's behalf in our office, please call the office first to make sure your paperwork is in order.

2006 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)

Although crop prices have been above the loan rates most of the harvest season, meaning no LDP's, we want to remind producers there were a few days when a LDP rate was in effect for soybeans. If anyone delivered 2006 soybeans to an elevator between September 1st and October 4th, there may have been a LDP rate in effect for those bushels. Providing you have met all of the other requirements, you may be eligible for a payment. Contact the office to find out if you are eligible.

2006 COMMODITY LOANS

Commodity loans for 2006 crops are currently available through the FSA office. Acreage reports must be on file for any grain placed under loan. Loan rates per bushel for 2006 crops are as follows:

Corn: \$1.90	Soybeans: \$5.07	Oats: \$1.40
SRW Wheat: \$2.70	SWW Wheat: \$2.53	
Barley: \$1.68	Grain Sorghum: \$3.29	

Any grain placed under loan is not eligible to receive LDP's that may be in effect.

We want to remind producers they should allow time for us to process lien searches and filings on the grain before the loan can be disbursed.

The final date to request commodity loans for wheat is March 31 and the final date for corn and soybeans is May 31.

Reminder to Producers with Outstanding Commodity Loans

Producers that currently have 2006 commodity loans outstanding are reminded keep an eye on the condition of their grain. Grain must be kept in good condition to remain eligible for loan. If grain is found to be in poor condition during a spot-check, the loan will have to be called and repaid immediately at principle plus interest. Liquidated damages may also be assessed.

Producers are also reminded to contact the office before grain under loan is moved for any reason. In order to move any loan collateral, a marketing authorization must be on file in the county office.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

In order for an individual to be eligible they must be a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The annual gross revenue of the eligible producer, and any individual or entity combined as one "person" with the eligible producer, cannot exceed \$2 million.

To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be non-insurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available (except for trees).

Please contact a crop insurance agent if you have questions regarding whether a crop is insurable in your county. For further information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please the Monroe FSA office.



CONTINUOUS CRP SIGN-UP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CCRP, you can receive annual rental payments, special financial incentives and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland.

FSA makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CCRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under the continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Unlike a General CRP Sign-up (whole field), offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

To be eligible for CRP continuous sign-up enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- 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 of 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.

For more information contact the Monroe FSA office.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) sign-up is still on going. CREP, an offspring of the CRP program, is a Federal-State conservation partnership program that targets significant environmental effects related to agriculture. It is a voluntary program that uses financial incentives to encourage farmers and ranchers to enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts of 15 years in duration to remove land from agricultural production. CRP is the nation's largest private lands conservation program and is implemented through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Eligible land must be within the project area and meet the basic eligibility criteria for the CRP. Land must be either cropland or marginal pastureland. Cropland must have been planted to an agricultural commodity two of the past five years and be physically and legally capable of being

cropped. Marginal pastureland can be enrolled provided it is suitable for use as a riparian buffer planted to trees.

Lands that have an existing CRP contract or an approved offer with a contract pending are not eligible for CREP until that contract expires.

CREP participants are eligible for four types of payments: base annual rental payments; incentive payments; practice maintenance payments; 100% Federal/State reimbursement of the cost to establish the practice(s).

If you own cropland or marginal pastureland and are interested in this program, contact the office for more information. Reminder: This agreement with the State of Michigan tentatively ends December 30, 2007, so do not miss out!

Conducting Business Electronically with USDA (eGov):

eGov provides USDA Service Center Agency (FSA, NRCS, RD) customers the option of electronically accessing, printing, filling out and submitting forms and program applications. To fully utilize eGov capabilities producers set up their own account for electronic signature authority at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov. Once registered, the producer needs to visit the FSA office to activate his account. This will allow them to conduct business electronically with USDA agencies. Current programs available through eGov include Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) contracts, and financial inquiries that allow producers to track USDA payments and deposits.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law.

Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

Eligibility Forms - all basic eligibility forms for all producers receiving payments are being reviewed for accuracy at this time. These forms affect your ability to earn program payments. Please bear with us as these forms are being updated and please respond promptly to FSA correspondence to avoid delay in payment processing.

Are you changing the structure of your operation? For example, is the farm converting from an individual to a partnership or limited liability corporation? Are you changing shares within the business or is one of the shareholders leaving the business? These questions need to be answered prior to sign-up.

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

Temporary
Return Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 – June 1	Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign-up
December 25	Christmas (Office Closed)
January 1	New Years Day (Office Closed)
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observed (Office Closed)
February 19	President’s Day Observed (Office Closed)
March 15	Last Day to Apply for NAP Coverage on Spring Seeded Crops
March 31	Deadline to Request 2006 Wheat Loans
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP & CREP Sign-up

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.fsa.usda.gov/



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

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

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, audiotape, 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.