



MAY, 2007

Monroe FSA News

Monroe County USDA Service Center

Monroe County FSA
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI. 49161-4060

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

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

County Committee
James VanBuskirk
Carmen L. Cousino
Meetings on 3rd Wed of
Month

FSA INFO WEBSITE
www.fsa.usda.gov

Staff
Paul Manol,
County Executive Director

Phone Extension 107

Farm Program Section:
Carole Bogoski 110
Kimberly Werstein 109
Karla Frammolino 111

Roger Bezek,
Field Reporter

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

Michael Jordon
Farm Loan Manager 110
Rebecca Deline 111
Judy Kellie 113
Susan Lerch 112
Katy McCracken 103

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Extended

Sign-up for the 2007 DCP began October 1, 2006, and has been extended to August 3, 2007. You must sign up annually to participate. For any farms that are signed-up between August 4, 2007 and September 30, 2007 there will be a \$100 late-filing fee charged per farm.

Under DCP you must designate shares and sign a new contract each year. Producers are encouraged to have all cash rent statements for their landowners at the time of the appointment. For 2007, advance program payments have changed significantly. A 22% advance of the Direct Payment (your guaranteed payment) can be requested for any month December through September of the program year. The final 78% of the Direct Payment will be issued in October 2007 if all eligibility requirements are met. Since advance payments are considerably less than in past years please be aware of this change and make necessary arrangements

As a reminder, *ALL* cropland on a farm *must* be reported each year in order to earn payments. June 30th is the deadline to report wheat and July 15th is the final day for all other crops, forage, and CRP. Program payments can only be earned by persons who have risk in the crop. Participants are required to protect all planted and idle DCP base acres from erosion and weeds throughout the crop year. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's) cannot be planted on base acres unless the farm or producer has FAV history. In cases where the farm and/or producer are eligible, the producer will receive an acre-for-acre reduction in his/her program payment. FAV's include dry edible beans, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, and squash, among others. If no FAV history exists, it's deemed a program violation and could cost the producer the DCP payment for the entire farm.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Center offices must be notarized.

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest *unless* written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county FSA office. This procedure does not apply to the commodity loan or Loan Deficiency Program. Spouses must have an FSA-211, Power of Attorney form on file to sign commodity loan documents and claim settlements on behalf of each other.

Spouses shall not sign an FSA-211 on behalf of the other and shall not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Deadline

The deadline for applying for LDP's is fast approaching. You are eligible to receive LDP if you delivered soybeans to the elevator on the following dates: September 1-18, 20-21, 25-28, or October 3-4, 2006, and you also file a request for LDP payment at the County Office by May 31, 2007. Note that this deadline only applies to soybeans.

Welcome To New County Executive Director

Welcome to Paul Manol, our new CED! Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Paul has over 30 years experience working with the domestic and international agricultural industries in several capacities that include:

USDA, GIPSA, Federal Grain Inspection Service, 1977-1983, 1994-2001

- Agricultural Commodity Grader - Toledo, OH
- Wheat Marketing Specialist - Washington, DC

USDA, AMS, Fruit & Vegetable Programs, 1983-1994, 2001-2006

- Agricultural Commodity Grader - Philadelphia, PA
- Officer-in-Charge - Savannah, GA
- Federal-State Supervisor - Hartford, CT
- Standardization Specialist - Washington, DC
- Assistant Head, Field Operations - Wash., DC (Managed national peanut program)
- International Standards Coordinator - Wash. DC
- Training Specialist - Fredericksburg, VA

USDA, FSA, Production, Emergencies & Compliance Division, 2006-2007

- Program Specialist - Washington, DC

Paul spent the early portion of his career as a commodity inspector. Upon moving to Washington DC 1987, he worked in several different USDA program areas interacting with USDA sister agencies, other governmental Departments, industry groups, research personnel, academia, and, most importantly, U.S. farming groups and organizations. He has been involved in several technical assistance projects in Asia, Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe. He also represented U.S. agricultural interests abroad in working with international standards and marketing organizations such as the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Rome-based Codex Commission, and the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Prior to accepting the Monroe County CED position, Paul worked with FSA in Washington DC where his primary duties involved the Compliance, NAP, and CDP programs. He is looking forward to meeting area producers during acreage reporting time.

Paul married his high school sweetheart, Kathy, over 27 years ago. They have two children, Courtney, 24, (who recently gave birth to their first grandchild and who will be moving to Hawaii later this summer upon her husband's return from duty in Iraq), and Joseph, 22, who lives with his wife in Virginia. To relax, Paul jogs and competes in an adult roller hockey league.

Saying Farewell

The Monroe County Farm Service Agency sends a heartfelt "Thank You" to Jack Doty, past County Committee Chairperson for his dedicated service to FSA and American agriculture. Due to term limits, he no longer is able to serve on the FSA County Committee board. Our thanks and best wishes go out to him.

Patricia Jackson, Program Technician for the last 6 years overseeing the Conservation Programs, recently decided to leave our office to pursue other opportunities. We send along our best wishes to her. We hope to fill her vacancy with another Program Technician in the near future. As for now, Kimberly Werstein will take over the Conservation programs.

EGov Customer Registration Process

Did you know you can verify what payments you've received from FSA (referred to as the "Customer Statement"), sign up for DCP, and request LDP payments from your home computer?

1. The first step is to obtain your "Level 2 Authorization" by accessing your website of interest:
 - USDA Customer Statement
<http://customerstatement.usda.gov>
 - Electronic LDP Signup
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/eldp_default.htm
 - Electronic DCP Signup
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm
2. Create an online user profile and apply for Level 2 access.
3. Respond to the verification e-mail within 7 days of receipt.
4. Visit the County Office in person and provide photo identification to the Local Registration Authority in order to receive Level 2 Activation.
5. You will have access to Level 2 applications within one hour after your profile has been activated.

Farm Record Changes

Report any farming operation changes so that we may keep our records current. Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. You should also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which impact your eligibility for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments as well as other USDA program benefits. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in structure of your farming operation, the addition or removal of farms that you operate, changes in your rental agreements, ownership changes, or changes from agricultural to non-agricultural land uses.

Acreage Reporting for NAP

Acreage reporting time is rolling around. As a producer, you should note that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of program, including the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Acreage reports are also required if you want to receive:

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments
- Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments

Acreage reports for other-than-NAP purposes are to be certified by June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops.

What is Mid-Contract Management of CRP?

Mid-Contract Management of CRP are activities that must be performed on certain practices to ensure the original plant diversity, wildlife benefits, and protections of the soil and water resources are present for the life of the contract. For CRP practices with grasses, legumes, & wildflowers, research has shown that typically 5-6 years after establishment the site becomes dominated by a thick growth of the grasses. To ensure wildlife habitat benefits in these sites, management is required to encourage legumes and wildflowers, and to ensure the grass is not too thick to limit small wildlife species from traveling through the cover to meet their needs. This is your responsibility and must be followed according to your conservation plan. If a variance is needed for the above stated policy, please contact the office. Variances can be pre-approved on a case-by-case basis



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Availability

Due to recent changes in the CREP the coverage area has been enlarged to include all land south of the River Raisin. The following Townships have CREP eligible areas:



- Most of Milan Township,
- Part of London Township,
- Most of Raisinville Township,
- Part of Frenchtown Township, and
- The entire townships of Dundee, Summerfield, Ida, Monroe, LaSalle, Whitford, Bedford and Erie.

The list of practices available in CREP is listed below:

- CP1, Introduced Grasses and Legumes on highly erodible land within 1,000 feet of water
- CP2, Native Grasses and Legumes on highly erodible land within 1,000 feet of water
- CP5, Field Windbreak
- CP21, Filter Strip
- CP22, Riparian Forest Buffer
- CP23, Wetland Restoration in a Floodplain
- CP23A, Wetland Restoration in a Non-Floodplain
- CP26, Sediment Retention Control Structure

CREP pays significantly more benefits for enrollment compared to General and Continuous CRP.

If you have any questions or are interested in enrolling in CREP, please contact Lauren Lindemann, Lenawee County office CREP Technician at 517-263-7400 ext. 3.

Prevented Planting for 2007 Crops

Prevented planted acres means that you were unable to plant a crop on the field. If you plant an alternative crop on those acres, those acres are not considered prevented planting. For example, if you intended to plant oats, but subsequently planted corn on the acres, FSA does not consider those acres as prevented planting. If you were unable to plant all of the acres you intended then you need to take action. You want to make sure you report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report. If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent now.

Find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply. Rules vary by program. If your crop is covered by NAP: file a notice of loss with the office within 15 days of loss, report the acres by the required NAP crop reporting date.

Monroe County FSA Office
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI. 48161-4040



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 19

Temporary
Return Service Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 – August 3	Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign-up
May 28	Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
May 31	Deadline to Request 2006 Corn and Soybean Loans
June 30	Deadline to report fall seeded small grains
July 4	Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday
July 15	Deadline to report spring seeded crops and CRP
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continuous	Continuous CRP & CREP Sign-up



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.