



SEPTEMBER, 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  
Richard Janssens  
Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of  
Month

**FSA INFO WEBSITE**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://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  
Dawn Pluff 113

Roger Bezek,  
Field Reporter

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

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

## County Committee Elections

Eligible voters in Ash, Berlin, Exeter, Milan and London Townships will soon be electing someone to represent them on the County Committee (COC). **Jim VanBuskirk** and **Stephanie Gabriel** were nominated. The locally-elected COC is a unique system by which Federal farm programs are administered locally. COC reviews county office operations and provides input/decisions on how to programs are managed. This grassroots approach gives farmers a much-needed say in how FSA actions affect their communities and individual operations.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 2, 2007, and must be returned to the county office no later than the close of business on Dec. 3, 2007. Ballots will be tabulated on Dec. 6, 2007. Be sure to follow the instruction that come with the ballot. More importantly, *please sign your ballots where indicated!*

If you feel that you are eligible to vote and are unsure of your voter status with our agency, please call the FSA Office to make sure all farm records on file are up to date. This will ensure all eligible voters receive ballots.

## Welcome Our New Program Technician

Dawn Pluff has joined our staff and will be taking over price support programs. She has worked in our office as an intermittent since 1989 and has lived in Monroe County for over 30 years. Dawn has a degree in earth science and biology from Central Michigan University. She and her husband, Will, reside near Maybee. They are both avid Detroit Tigers & Lions fans.

## Measurement Service Rates

As a reminder, measurement service fees for farm visits have changed to a minimum of \$46 per farm for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes thereafter needed to complete the necessary measurements. Travel time to and from the site will be included when computing total hours for fee determination.

## Crop Disaster Program

The USDA announced the Crop Disaster Program beginning October 15, 2007 for farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted *before* February 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 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 on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Note: Only producers who obtained crop insurance or coverage under the noninsured crop disaster program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered a quantity loss in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. USDA will announce and conduct a CDP signup for quality losses for the years noted above as soon as possible.

## Marketing Assistance Loan Rates for 2007 Crops

Corn - \$1.91/Bushel  
Barley - \$1.69/Bushel  
Oats - \$1.34/Bushel  
Soybeans - \$5.08/Bushel  
Soft Red Wheat - \$2.59/Bushel  
Soft White Wheat - \$2.41/Bushel

## Unauthorized Disposal of Loan Commodities

Grain under loan that has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form without prior written authorization from the FSA staff is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and it may affect a producer's ability to obtain future farm-stored loans. Always call the FSA Office before any loan grain is fed, moved or sold.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

An FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started. The following are eligible types of facilities and upgrades that can be paid for with farm storage facility loans:

- New conventional type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New flat-type storage structures with permanent floors/bulkheads designed and primarily used to store whole grain for the loan term.
- New electrical equipment integral to operation of the grain storage and handling equipment, excluding installation of electrical service to the electrical meter.
- New safety equipment, as required by CCC, meeting the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Organization (OSHA) requirements, e.g., interior/exterior ladders and lighting.
- New equipment to improve, maintain, or monitor the quality of stored grain, such as cleaners, moisture testers, and heat detectors.
- New concrete foundations, aprons, pits, and pads, including site prep, labor and material, essential to proper operation of grain storage/handling equipment.
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to the original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits designed for whole other than whole grain storage, having a useful life of at least 10 years.
- Renovation of existing farm storage facilities, under certain circumstances, if the renovation is for maintaining or replacing items that have a useful life of at least 10 years.
- New permanently affixed grain handling and grain drying equipment determined by CCC to be essential to the proper operation of a grain storage system.
- New structures that are bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor designed for whole or other-than-whole grain storage, having a useful life of at least 10 years.

Scales, portable dryers, used bins, and used equipment are *not* eligible for financing. Further, facilities built for commercial purposes and not for the sole use of the borrower(s) are not eligible for financing.

The net cost for building or upgrading farm storage and han-

dling facilities and equipment may include the following:

- Purchase price and sales tax.
- Shipping and delivery charges.
- Site preparation costs.
- Installation costs.
- New material and labor for concrete pads, electrical wiring, and electric motors.
- Off-farm paid labor.
- New on-farm material approved by FSA.
- Attorney or archaeological study fees.

The maximum amount a person is allowed to borrow through the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is \$100,000. The following are the terms for farm storage facility loans:

- A 15 percent cash down payment is required; thus, CCC's loan is limited to 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment (subject to the applicant's storage needs test). The down payment cannot include any trade-in, discount, rebate, deferred payment, or post-dated check.
- Loan term is seven (7) years.
- Interest rate is fixed for the loan term based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is approved. The interest rate is derived from comparable 3 to 8 year T-bonds.
- Loans are to be repaid in equal amortized installments.
- Loan will not be disbursed until the facility has been erected and inspected.

Applicants will be charged a nonrefundable \$45 application fee. CCC will pay all collateral lien searches and recording fees and credit reports. Applicants pay all other fees. For loans over \$50,000, applicants will be required to pay the cost of obtaining a title search or title insurance.

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA Office that maintains the farm's records.

For more information, contact Program Technician Dawn Pluff at 734-241-8540, ext. 113 to schedule an appointment or go online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)



## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Step-by-Step Application Information

The following provides a general account of the steps necessary for a landowner to complete the CRP Application process (It is really not as painful as it might appear).

1. Producer initiates CRP Application (CRP-2) with FSA, indicating on an aerial map location of land and practice being offered.
2. FSA determines eligibility of Acreage and Practice
3. CRP-2 forwarded to NRCS w/ aerial photo attached.
4. NRCS completes a site visit to determine:
  - the acreage is suitable for the offered practice, including what type of water source is being protected in the case of practice CP21 and CP22
  - the practice is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
  - the purpose of the practice is being met
  - the minimum required width to meet the Field Office Technical Guide standards
  - the eligible area is flagged in the field
5. NRCS completes blocks 19 through 30C and 40 B. (Blocks 19 through 23, 28 and 29 are "N/A.")
6. NRCS returns the CRP-2 to FSA.
7. If CRP Practice is a Grass-Waterway, NRCS will provide FSA a cost-estimate.
8. NRCS completes needs information on the AD-862.
9. NRCS develops a Conservation Plan and the Conservation Plan of Operations or CPO (The contract support document). The CPO must be signed by all signatories to the CRP-1, NRCS Conservationist and the Conservation District.

**Note: There may be other signatories to the CRP-1 in addition to the producer NRCS is working with on a particular CRP contract that NRCS may not be aware of. FSA will be responsible for obtaining any additional signatures needed.**

10. Producer installs the practice & submits bills to FSA.
11. NRCS signs the AD-862 certifying the practice meets NRCS Standards and Specifications.
12. Cost-share payment is issued by FSA.
13. NRCS completes the first year status review.

14. NRCS completes the second year status review if first year status review was not final.
15. NRCS completes the third year status review if second year status review was not final.

For more information, contact Program Technician Kimberly Werstein at 734-241-8540, ext. 109 to schedule an appointment.

### Important Conservation Updates

- CRP Rental Rates were recently increased in Monroe County
- CREP area eligibility was recently increased in Monroe County.

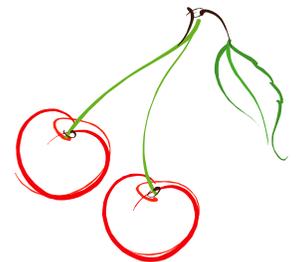
### Maintenance of CRP Cover

Attention Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants: Cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. Mowing for cosmetic purposes or generic weed control is not allowed and may result in financial penalties. Mowing maintenance activities may be allowed once per year if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, but only that portion of the planting in need of maintenance can be mowed. Mowing is only allowed between August 1st and August 20th to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover. Non-mowing maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1st and April 30<sup>th</sup> and may only be done once per year if needed to maintain the approved cover. **Contact the FSA Office prior to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres.** Producers must request permission to perform maintenance activities prior to the date specified in their contracts and each project must be approved by the COC on a case-by-case basis.

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Dates

The deadline for purchasing NAP coverage for crops deemed "fall-planted." Is fast approaching. The following list several such crops produced in Monroe County:

- Forage (Production) - September 30th
- Pasture - September 30th
- Apricots - November 20th
- Cherries - November 20th
- Grapes - November 20th
- Peaches - November 20th
- Pears - November 20th
- Plums - November 20th
- Strawberries - November 20th
- Nectarines - November 20<sup>th</sup>



If you grow a crop not listed above, please contact your local FSA office for the NAP closing date(s).

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



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

**Temporary**  
**Return Service Requested**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>September 30</b>	NAP Sales Closing Date for Forage (Production) & Pasture
<b>September 30</b>	Closing Date to Re-Enroll Expiring CRP Acreage
<b>October 8</b>	Office Closed for Columbus Day Holiday
<b>October 15</b>	Sign Up Opens for Crop Disaster Program (CDP)
<b>November 12</b>	Office Closed for Veterans Day Holiday
<b>November 20</b>	NAP Sales Closing Date for Fall-Seeded Crops
<b>November 22</b>	Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday
<b>December 3</b>	COC Election Ballots Due Back at County Office
<b>December 25</b>	Office Closed for Christmas Day Holiday
<b>Continuous</b>	Farm Storage Facility Loans



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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.