



June 2007

Montcalm County News

Montcalm County FSA
77 South State Street
Stanton, MI 48888
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Web Site
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Eugene Rentschler
Ned Welder
Judy Johnston

County Committee
Advisor
Phyllis Larson

Staff
Janice McCallister
Becky Proctor
Pam Brooks

Field Reporter
Ken Carr

Farm Loan Manager
John Anton

County Executive Director
Wayne Stickler

2007 Crop Reporting

Producers are required to report all of their cropland, *including the field planting date*, in order to qualify for several program benefits. These benefits include:

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments
- Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Payments

The acreage reporting deadlines are **July 2** for fall-seeded crops (including wheat) and **July 16** for all other crops, including hay, alfalfa, CRP, corn, soybeans, fruits, vegetables, and idle ground

Direct and Counter- Cyclical Program Extended for 2007

FSA has announced the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**.

The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the 2007 DCP contract period.

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 general weed control is not allowed and will result in financial penalties. Mowing

maintenance activities may be allowed once per year and only if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, and only on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. Mowing is only allowed between August 1st and August 20th to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover. All maintenance activities, other than mowing, may be allowed once per year and only if needed to maintain the approved cover. NON-MOWING maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1st and April 30th to protect ground-nesting wildlife. Producers may request permission to perform maintenance activities prior to the dates specified in their contracts, but each has to be approved by the COC on a case-by-case basis. **Contact the FSA office prior to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres.**

County Committee Nominations

Nominations for the Montcalm County Committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 will be accepted through August 1, 2007. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers are encouraged to nominate candidates.

LAA 3 consists of Montcalm, Sidney, Eureka, Fairplains, Bushnell and Bloomer townships the current representative is Ned Welder.

Each Producer on our mailing list will soon receive a newsletter from the Michigan State FSA Office which will include a nomination petition (FSA-669). More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under the "News and Events" tab. and





Montcalm County FSA
77 South State St.
Stanton MI 48888-9470

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Dates to Remember

July 16	Final Date to Report Crops w/o Penalty
July 4th	FSA Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
August 3 rd	2007 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Sign-up Ends

HEL and Wetland Compliance

If you plan on clearing, draining, dredging or tile maintenance of any kind, you need to file an AD-1026 with our office before you begin. Failure to do so could result in the loss of USDA benefits.

Farm Record Changes

It is important to keep your farm records up to date by reporting any changes in your farming operation to our office. Also, please let our office know if you have changed banks, as this causes a delay in you receiving payments timely.

Unauthorized Disposal Of Loan Commodity

Grain under loan that has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office 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 office before any loan grain is fed, moved, or sold.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

2007 Compliance Process

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.