



September 2007

# Montcalm County News

Montcalm County FSA  
77 South State Street  
Stanton, MI 48888  
(989) 831-4212 (phone)  
(989) 831- 4540(fax)

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

## Important

All signatures for Direct & Counter Cyclical (DCP) contracts must be received in the FSA office by September 30<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for a 2007 payment, (a Late fee of \$100.00 per farm may apply). Also 2007 crops that were to be reported by July 15<sup>th</sup> must be reported by September 30<sup>th</sup> with a late file fee of a minimum of \$46.00 per farm.

### **SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS**

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** and **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** beginning Sept. 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** **beginning Oct. 15, 2007**, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

CDP 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.**

Producers interested should contact their local FSA county office.

## **Preventing Fraud, Waste**

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## **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.

## **FSA Farm Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.





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

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<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
September 30th	2007 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Ends
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

**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.



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