



**September 2007**

# ***Presque Isle-Cheboygan County News***

**Presque Isle-Cheboygan  
USDA Service Center**

**Presque Isle-Cheboygan  
FSA**

4050 Michigan Ave.  
Onaway, MI. 49765  
989-733-8323 (phone)  
989-733-8481 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Edward Reimann –  
Chairperson  
Clifford Tollini – Vice-  
chairperson  
Sonja Kuffel – Member  
Wayne Schalk – Member  
Thomas Woiderski -  
Member

The County Committee  
meets the third  
Wednesday of each  
month starting at 10:30  
a.m.

**County Office Staff**

Gale Dunn, Program  
Technician  
Robin Grainger,  
Program Technician

**County Executive**

**Director**

Carmen A. Church,

[carmen.church@mi.usda.gov](mailto:carmen.church@mi.usda.gov)

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**

### **Overview**

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to a natural disaster.

### **Eligible Producers**

An eligible producer is 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.

### **Eligible Crops**

To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available and must be any of the following commercially produced crops:

- Crops grown for food;
- Crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including, but not limited to, grain and forage crops, including native forage;
- Crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except for trees);
- Crops grown under a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture;
- Specially crops, such as honey and maple sap;
- Value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery and turfgrass sod;
- Sea oats and sea grass; and
- Seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for other eligible NAP crop production.

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 contact your local FSA office.

### **Eligible Natural Disasters**

An eligible natural disaster is any of the following:

- Damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- An adverse natural occurrence such as earthquake or flood; or
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

The natural disaster must occur before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop.

### **Apply for Coverage**

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA state committee. The service fee is the lesser of \$100 per crop or \$300 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. To qualify for an administrative service fee waiver, the producer must meet both of the following criteria:

- Earn no more than \$100,000 gross income in farm sales from each of the previous two years;
- Have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household in both of the previous two years.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS**

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

## **DIRECT & COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)**

The deadline for signing up for DCP was August 3rd. If you missed this deadline you can still sign up until September 30<sup>th</sup>, however, a \$100 late filing fee will be charged for each farm that is signed up late.



Limited resource producer status can be determined using the USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination tool at

<http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>.

The automated system calculates and displays adjust gross farm sales per year and the higher of the national poverty level or county median household income.

### **Coverage Period for NAP**

The coverage period for NAP may vary depending on whether the producer grows annual, perennial or value-loss crops.

The coverage period for annual crops begins the later of:

- 30 days after application for coverage and the applicable service fees have been paid; or
- The date the crop is planted and does not exceed the final planting date and ends the earlier of:
  - The date the crop harvest is completed;
  - The normal harvest date for the crop;
  - The date the crop is abandoned; or
  - The date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

The coverage period for perennial crops, other than those intended for forage, begins 30 calendar days after the application closing date and ends the earlier of:

- 10 months from the application closing date;
- The date the crop harvest is completed;
- The normal harvest date for the crop;
- The date the crop is abandoned; or
- The date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

Please contact your local FSA office for information on the coverage periods for perennial forage crops, controlled-environment crops, specialty crops, and value loss crops.

### **Information Required to Remain Eligible for NAP**

To remain eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop acreage information MUST be reported annually:

- Name of the crop (lettuce, clover, etc.);
- Type and variety (head lettuce, red clover, etc.);

- Location and acreage of the crop (field, subfield, etc.);
- Share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop;
- Type of practice used to grow the crop (irrigated or non-irrigated);
- Date the crop was planted in each field; and
- Intended use of the crop (fresh, processed, etc.).

It benefits producers to report crop acreage shortly after planting (early in the risk period) to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost.

In addition, producers must annually provide the following production information:

- The quantity of ALL harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and
- Verifiable or reliable crop production records.

Producers must provide production information in a manner that can be easily understood by the FSA county committee. Questions regarding acceptable production records should be directed to the FSA office.

Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region. Contact the FSA office for local dates.

For aquaculture, floriculture and ornamental nursery operations, producers must maintain records according to industry standards, including daily crop inventories. Unique reporting requirements apply to beekeepers and producers of Christmas trees, turfgrass sod, maple sap, mushrooms, ginseng and commercial seed or forage crops. Please contact the county office for these requirements.

### **FSA Usage of Reported Acreage and Production**

FSA uses acreage reports to verify the existence of the crop and record the number of acres covered by the application. Also, the acreage report in combination with the production report are used to calculate the approved yield (expected production for a crop year).

## Dates to Remember

**Sept. 30 – Deadline to enroll in DCP. \$100.00 late filing fee applies.**

**Sept. 30 – 2008 NAP deadline on certain crops – contact FSA office for specific crops.**

**Oct. 8 – Columbus Day. FSA office closed.**

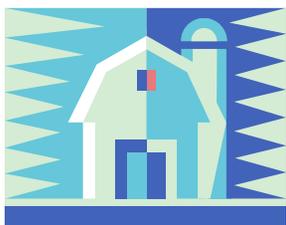
**Nov. 12-Veteran's Day. FSA office closed.**

**Nov. 20 - 2008 NAP deadline on certain crops - contact FSA office for specific crops.**

**Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day. FSA office closed.**

**Dec. 3 – Deadline to submit ballots for COC Elections.**

**Dec. 25 – Christmas – FSA office closed.**



The approved yield is the average of your actual production history (APH) for a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 10 crop years (5 years for apples and peaches). To calculate your APH, FSA divides your total production by your crop acreage.

The approved yield may be calculated by using substantially reduced yield data if you do not report acreage and production, or report less than 4 years of crop production.

### **Apply for NAP Assistance When a Natural Disaster Strikes**



When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify the FSA office and complete Part B, (the Notice of Loss portion) of the application, which is Form CCC-576, the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment. This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the:

- Natural disaster occurrence;
- Final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster;
- Date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

To receive NAP benefits, producers must complete Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss and Application for Payment, parts D, E, F as applicable, and G, no later than the immediately subsequent crop year acreage reporting date for the crop. The CCC-576 requires producers to provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

### **Amount of Production Loss to Receive a NAP Payment**



The natural disaster must have:

- Reduced the expected unit production of the crop by more than 50 percent; or
- Prevented the producer from planting more than 35 percent of the intended crop acreage.

Expected production is the amount of crop produced in the absence of a natural disaster. FSA compares expected production to actual production to determine the percentage of crop loss.

## **Defining a NAP Unit**

The NAP unit includes the specific crop acreage in the county in which the producer has a unique crop interest. A unique crop interest is either:

- 100 percent interest; or
- A shared interest with other producers.

## **How Much Loss NAP Covers**

NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

## **Information FSA Uses to Calculate Payment**

The NAP payment is calculated by unit using:

- Crop acreage;
- Approved yield;
- Net production;
- 55 percent of an average market price for the specific commodity established by the FSA state committee;
- A payment factor reflecting the decreasing cost incurred in the production cycle for the crop that is harvested, unharvested or prevented from being planted.

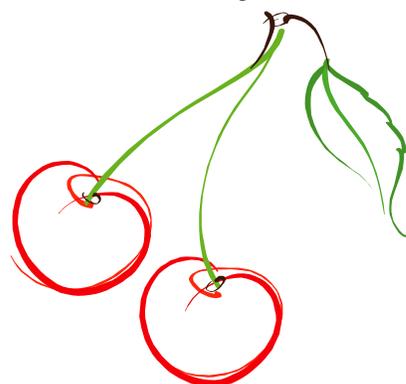
## **More Information**

Further information on NAP is available from the FSA office or on FSA's Web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **NAP Sales Closing Dates**

Forage (Production) – September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Pasture – September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Cherries – November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Peaches – November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Strawberries – November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sweet Corn – March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sunflowers – March 15<sup>th</sup>

If you grow a crop not listed above, contact the FSA office for the closing dates.



**eGov Customer  
Registration  
Process**

**Did you know you can verify what payments you have received from FSA (known as the Customer Statement), sign up for DCP and request an LDP payment from your home computer?**

**Contact the FSA office today for more information.**



**AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007**

A disaster program has been enacted by Congress covering losses on crops for 2005, 2006, and losses sustained on 2007 crops before February 28, 2007.

A major change in this disaster program is that the only crops eligible are those for which a producer had a crop insurance policy through a private insurance agent or a NAP policy through our office.

Future disaster programs may or may not include these same provisions. To ensure guarantee coverage for future disaster programs, it is suggested that you purchase crop insurance or NAP policies.

September 30, 2007 is the deadline to purchase policies for fall-seeded crops. This includes forage crops and pasture policies. Also, we have been notified that wheat is no longer an insurable crop in Cheboygan County, therefore, the only coverage you can have is a NAP policy through our office.

**COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

This year the County Committee elections are being held in Local Administrative Areas #2 and #5.

LAA2 consists of Burt, Tuscarora, Mentor, Wilmont, Mullett, Koehler, Ellis, Nunda, Waverly, Walker, and Forest.

LAA5 consists of Pulawski, Metz, Posen, Krakow, and Presque Isle.

Ballots are to be mailed to eligible voters in these townships on November 2, 2007. The deadline to return completed ballots to the FSA office is December 3, 2007.

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.