



May 2007

Presque Isle-Cheboygan County News

Presque Isle-Cheboygan
County
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

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

County Committee
Edward Reimann, Chairperson
Clifford Tollini, Vice-chairperson
Thomas Woiderski, Member
Wayne Schalk, Member
Sonya Kuffel, Member

Staff
Robin Grainger, Program Technician
Gale Dunn, Program Technician
Carmen A. Church, County Executive Director

2007 DCP SIGN UP IS EXTENDED

The June 1st DCP enrollment deadline has been extended. Producers now have until **August 3, 2007** to enroll base acres into a 2007 DCP contract. The late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3rd but on or before September 30, 2007. When you sign your contract you have the option of taking a 22% advance direct payment. If you choose no advance payment, then your total final direct payment will be made in October.

MAINTENANCE OF IDLE DCP CONTRACT BASE ACRES

If you are not growing crops on your base acres for payment, keep in mind that you are required under the terms of the contract to keep the weeds and erosion controlled.

PLANTING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Planting fruits or vegetables on DCP base acres may adversely affect your program benefits. Please contact the office before you plant or lease land for production of fruits, nut trees, or vegetables. We will discuss acreage reporting requirements in order to prevent possible violation of program provisions, payment reductions, and severe penalties.

CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

Producers who are participating in DCP and CRP are reminded that they must report their acreage each year.

The deadline for fall seeded small grains is **July 2nd**. All other crops and

CRP must be reported no later than **July 16th**.

Any crops reported after these dates will be charged a late filing fee.

FILING A NOTICE OF LOSS UNDER YOUR 2007 NAP POLICY

Producers are reminded to file a Notice of Loss with the office if they feel that a weather event caused any damage or any loss of the crop covered under a NAP policy. A Notice of Loss must be filed with the county office within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or when crop damage is apparent to the producer. Filing a Notice of Loss timely gives the County Committee the opportunity to inspect the damaged crop acreage and to verify the claimed loss. Do not destroy the damaged crop acreage until it has been field checked by office staff.

Remember: Turn in your 2006 hay production by the **July 15, 2007** deadline so that it can be used in your 2007 yield data base.

PREVENTED PLANTED AND FAILED ACREAGE

Prevented planted reports must be submitted no later than 15 days after the final planting date for NAP crops and by the final reporting date for non-NAP crops.

Non-NAP crops include: corn, wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, potatoes, dry beans. NAP crops include: All other crops.

Acreage reports for failed acreage must be filed before the crop is destroyed and must be approved by the

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.



CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants.

County Committee.

APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is, and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

FSA FARM LOANS

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers who can not obtain commercial credit from a bank 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 are having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, terms, and use of proceeds.

LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years. Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm. Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA. Does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's average size.

YOUTH LOANS

FSA can make loans to youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. The maximum loan size is \$5,000.

To qualify you must be:

- Between 10 and 20 years old,
- Live in a town of less than 10,000,
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources,
- Conduct a modest income producing project in a supervised program of work.

Applicants must also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

MAINTENANCE OF CRP COVER

Cover maintenance on CRP acres is the participants responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. After establishment, ALL CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife (May 1st through July 31st) and in accordance with your conservation plan. After establishment, mowing activities may be allowed once per year and ONLY if needed to maintain the cover. This means only clipping weeds off the top of the established cover, and ONLY on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. After establishment, mowing is only allowed between August 1st and August 20th to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter.

If a variance is needed for the above stated policy, please contact the FSA office. Variances can be approved on a case-by-case basis.



HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Loan Deficiency Payments, Farm Loan Program, Crop Insurance and many other USDA programs. This means if you plan to clear a timbered area, expand existing crop areas, clear, fill or tile a wetland, convert pasture into cropland or bring any fields that have not been in production for a long time into production, you need to complete a new AD-1026 form with the Farm Service Agency office and consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Take the time now to make sure your farm is in compliance!

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS & LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP's)

To be eligible for a 9-month Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP's, you must comply with the Sod/Swamp requirements, report all cropland acreage on the farm, have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is out-standing, and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Beneficial interest means that you retain the ability to make decisions about the commodity, are responsible for loss or damage to the commodity, and have title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is not eligible for loan or LDP, even if you regain beneficial interest.

If sale proceeds are needed to repay the loan you must request a "Marketing Authorization" from the county office PRIOR to moving the grain.

The deadline to apply for a loan or LDP on 2006 crop corn or soybeans is May 31, 2007.

WOOL & MOHAIR LDP's

The 2007 crop year for wool and mohair began January 1st. Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP's) are available for 2007 wool and mohair.

Make sure you have a CCC-633EZ on file before you lose beneficial interest in you 2007 wool or mohair. You can obtain this form online or from the county office.

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION

Grain under loan is not to be disposed of through feeding, selling, or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization. The financial penalties for this are severe. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATE CHANGES

Measurement Service Fees for farm visits have changed to a minimum of \$46.00 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. The rate includes time for travel and paperwork completion. This will also be the fee for late acreage reports. This fee is by farm so producers will especially want to report their acreage by the deadline date to avoid these fees. This includes CRP acreage reports. Please take note of these changes.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent delay of payments.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Report any farming operation changes so that we can keep your 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, change in the structure of your farming operation, the addition or removal of farms that you operate, changes in your rental agreement, ownership changes, or changes from agricultural to non-agricultural land uses.

**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.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO
REMEMBER**

- May 16 – COC Meeting, beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- May 28 – Office Closed – Memorial Day
- May 31 – Deadline for Corn or Soybean Loans and LDP's.
- June 1 – Deadline to request a reconstitution for 2007 crop year.
- July 2 – Deadline to report fall planted crops.
- July 4 – Office Closed – Independence Day.
- July 16 – Deadline to report spring seeded crops and CRP.
- July 18 – COC Meeting, beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- August 3 – Deadline to sign up for DCP

**FOREIGN LANDOWNER
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owner of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and other involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.