



# Farm Service Agency

November 2007 Issue

## Mason, Oceana, Lake & Manistee County News

### USDA Service Center

Scottville Service Center  
655 N. Scottville Road  
Scottville, MI 49454-9569

### Hours

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

### Office Staff

Kathi Lerg, CED  
Debbie Schulz, PT  
Beth Areklet, PT  
Sarah Slater, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Rick Dean, FLM

### County Committee

Eric Herrygers, Chairman  
John LaPointe, Vice Chair  
Curtiss Berndt, Member  
Charles Schade, Member  
James Bush, Member

### Advisor

Shirley Mallison

## FSA for Kids

[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

[www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org)

### 2008/ NAP Coverage Deadlines

The final deadlines for 2008 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are as follows:

**November 20, 2007** for coverage on all perennial crops such as asparagus, strawberries, and ALL FRUIT.

**December 1, 2007** for coverage on honey and maple sap.

*Any changes to crop acreage, such as removal of orchards or new plantings should also be reported at this time.*

Continuous coverage is available for all 2007 NAP Participants. If you were a NAP participant in 2007 and wish to cover the same crop(s) for 2008 it is possible to sign up without making a trip to the office. Just mail your payment in for the amount listed on your continuous coverage letter before the final application deadline and your crops will be covered for the 2008 crop year.

For those wishing to enroll in the program, or those wishing to make changes to their crop coverage, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Coverage is also available to producers of perennial crops that did not have coverage in 2007. The fee is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per producer/per county in which the records are administered.

(Please note that the provisions of the current Crop Disaster Program is only available to producers that had NAP or RMA coverage on their crops.)



### 2005/2006/2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Program signup for Quantity loss started on October 15, 2007 and is available to producers that obtained crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage. The ending date has not been announced. The Quality loss program will be available at a later date.

CDP benefits calculate at the higher of the State historical yield for the crop or your APH. Adjustments are made to the State yield for average age and tree counts on fruit crops before the difference is determined. For apples and peaches insured through RMA, we will not have age and tree information on record. Be prepared to provide planting dates of each block, number of trees planted and live trees remaining for the year in which you are applying for disaster benefits.



CDP requires a 35 percent loss of expected production; therefore, you may be eligible for a payment even if it was determined that the loss was not great enough under NAP or RMA coverage.

The maximum amount of CDP payment to a producer is \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Crops planted by February 28, 2007 are covered under this provision which includes forage, fruit, honey, and asparagus losses calculated for 2007. You do not need to wait until the 2007 loss is determined to apply. 2005/2006 applications can be processed. When the 2007 production is available through RMA or NAP, the adjustments will be made.

A producer may apply for benefits in all three years but the benefit will pay only for the year with the highest benefit.

## **Final DCP Program Payments**

The 2007 DCP final direct payments are being issued. The signup dates for 2008 have not been announced due to the pending 2008-2012 Farm Bill. This is a good time to get written cash lease agreements signed with your land owners, assuming the next farm bill will require it.

As a reminder, we can only accept statements prepared between the operator and the landowner or land owners signatures on the DCP contracts will be required.

## **LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) 2005/2006**

Unlike the CDP program, you did not have to have insurance to apply for benefits under this program

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible to apply. Mason, Oceana and Lake County are eligible for crop year 2005. Manistee County is eligible for either 2005 or 2006.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must:

- Be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that;
- Have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period
- For 2005 the beginning date is April 1, 2005
- For 2006 the beginning date is June 1, 2006.
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation.
- Producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock.
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage, or; incurred additional feed costs.

Signup has started with no ending date announced.

Contact the office prior to making your visit to apply and we will send you the LCP worksheet to aid you in gathering the required information to make application for benefit.

## **USDA eGOV Initiative**

The USDA's eGOV Initiative enables applicants to register online, find forms and complete applications via the internet. You will also find information about farm programs and farm loan programs. We encourage you to register online at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

## **Farm Loan Programs**

**Loans Available for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged:** FSA has special programs and reserved funding to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, the 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 FSA management program
- For real estate type loans; does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size

Entity members must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and women.

**Rural Youth Loans:** FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing products. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program at work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact Rick Dean for more details.

## **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone at (231) 757-3707 ext. 2.

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) 2007 Contract Payments**

- All 2007 contract payments have been issued to eligible producers.
- There is no 2008 Regular Sign-up approved.
- Continuous Sign-up is in affect for eligible practices.  
Contact the office for details of Continuous Sign-up provisions.

## **Reporting Changes**

It is important to remember to contact the office with any records changes that may have occurred. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- **Address** – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.
- **Direct Deposit** – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information is updated immediately.
- **Development** – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- **Owner/Operator Changes** – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- **Reconstitutions** – changes that requires farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators, should be reported as soon as possible.
- **Farm Operating Plan** – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person” and/or “actively engaged” determinations.
- **Update AD-1026** when you plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can affect all program payments for the year in which you may have made these changes without prior notification and the proper determinations made by NRCS.

### **Introduction**

*Hello everyone. My name is Kathi Lerg and I am the new CED here in the Scottville FSA Service Center. I began my career with this agency 15 years ago in the Missaukee County office. When the office closed and merged with the Wexford office I went with it. I was hired as the CED in the Washtenaw-Wayne County office in May of 2003. I am very happy to be in this area and I welcome you to stop in and introduce yourself to me.*



## **YOUR VOICE**

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008. Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

**2007 | CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**  
**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## **Emergency Loans – 2007 Crops**

Area producers have had their crop production affected by drought, and spring frost/freeze weather conditions.

Farm Service Agency is in the process of collecting damage assessment information to determine areas where a disaster designation will be requested.

When a county receives a disaster designation, producers will have 8 months to apply for FSA Emergency farm loans.

Emergency loan eligibility requirements include: A 30% loss of normal production in an essential farm enterprise, or a qualifying physical loss; and the inability to obtain commercial credit. Insurance and other compensation are deducted to determine the amount of loss. For additional information on FSA farm loans contact Larry Cleary or Rick Dean.

A designation has been announced for our four counties for losses caused by storms, hail, and high winds that occurred from July 3, 2007 through August 29, 2007. Emergency loans to help cover losses are available through June 5, 2008.

A designation has been requested for the 2007 drought.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed for the observance of Veterans Day
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	Final date to purchase NAP coverage on 2008 perennial crops
Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Office Closed for the observance Thanksgiving
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final Date to purchase NAP coverage on Honey or Maple Sap
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Final date to return 2008 COC ballots



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