



January 2007

Genesee/Shiawassee FSA News

USDA Service Center
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Staff
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Genesee Committee
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Terry P. Spezia
Shauna Weil – Advisor

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Staff
Louri Miller
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Bernadette Schneider
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Shiawassee Committee
Nicholas A. Zdunic
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George J. Zmitko
Julia Birchmeier – Advisor

Field Assistant
William Darnell

Farm Loan Manager
Dave Hemker-Shiawassee
Phil Sweeney-Genesee

County Director
Jayne A. Van Ness

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Appreciation.....

The Genesee and Shiawassee County FSA employees send a heartfelt "Thank You" to William Hunt past County Committee Chairperson and Robert Lee, past County Committee Member for their dedicated service to FSA and American Agriculture. Due to term limits, both individuals are not able to serve and/or continue as a member on the County Committee boards.

Our thanks and best wishes go out to both of them!

Due to this change in structure, the FSA employees welcome the following new members to the County Committee:

*Terry Spezia – Genesee
George Zmitko – Shiawassee*

We look forward to working with them.

SOYBEAN LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Producers who harvested and marketed their 2006 soybean crop on the following dates are eligible to receive Loan Deficiency benefits. Those dates are:

September 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th,
18th, 20th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, Octo-
ber 3rd and 4th, 2006.

Production records must be submitted to the office no later than May 31, 2007 to be eligible for those benefits.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATE CHANGES

The following measurement service rates have been established beginning in November of 2006.

Basic Farm Visit ----- \$30.00
Standard Hourly Rate----- \$16.00

MINIMUM CHARGE ----- \$46.00

Every 30 minutes after first hour--- \$ 8.00

Hourly rate starts at the County Office to completion of first visit.

The County Committee in both offices has requested a revision and/or clarification to this policy to better serve our producers.

DCP Sign up underway.....

The DCP sign up for the 2007 crop year is underway. Producers have until June 1st, 2007 to update and sign their contracts to remain eligible for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program payments. Advance payments are once again authorized once all signature requirements and/or cash lease agreements have been provided. The advance payment rate has been reduced to 22% of final payment rates which are as follows:

- Wheat ----- .52 cents/bu.
- Corn----- .28 cents/bu.
- Soybeans ---- .44 cents/bu.
- Oats ----- .024 cents/bu.
- Barley ----- .24 cents/bu.

*Please contact the county offices to make an appointment so that all records can be pulled that are required to be reviewed.
Thank You in advance.....*

Welcome, Bernadette Schneider to the Shiawassee County Farm Service Agency.....

A new face joined our staff in the spring of 2006. Bernadette Schneider worked for several years with FSA as a temporary employee in Genesee and Shiawassee County. Her program responsibilities will be:

- Conservation Reserve Program/Continuous Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- Milk Income Loss Contract Program
- Additional Livestock Programs as they are enacted.

A new face joined our staff through the summer in Genesee County. Teresa Fejes assisted FSA as a Student Intern and has now been placed on the roles as a temporary intermittent employee.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

The *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)* is available to eligible producers located within the approved CREP area. The CREP program is designed to enroll small acreages along stream banks, rivers or other bodies of water or wetlands into certain conservation practices. CREP offers special incentive payments for participants enrolling acreage into a contract.

CREP makes Cent\$ and Earns \$\$\$\$\$

CREP can earn landowners financial returns while simultaneously conserving our natural resources. Michigan Department of Agriculture has partnered with USDA to create one of the most beneficial conservation programs in history. Through the state and federal partnership, landowners receive significant financial incentives for enrolling their eligible land in CREP.

Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for additional information regarding this program.

The *Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)* is also an on-going program. CCRP is much like the CREP program, except that it is not limited to certain areas in the county. Incentive payments also apply to CCRP contracts.

You are reminded that controlling weeds on CRP ground is a requirement and must be completed timely to ensure that spreading of weeds do not occur. Complaints have been filed with the Michigan State FSA Office regarding compliance and maintenance issues. Please maintain the acreage so that the program enhances both wildlife and erosion benefits as well eliminating concerns of program inadequacies.



eLDP's available for Wool/Mohair



2007 Loan Rates announced...

You are reminded that January 31, 2007 is the final date to request eLDP benefits for shorn wool and mohair.

Please stop by the office to file the necessary paper work.

The loan rates for the following commodities have been announced. Those rates are:

Barley - \$1.69/bu. Oats - \$1.34/bu.

Sunflower Seed - \$7.93/cwt.

Soft Red Wheat - \$2.44/bu.

Soft White Wheat - \$2.36/bu.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM



Loans are available under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) to assist grain producers in the construction of or upgrading farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum term of the loan is seven years at a fixed interest rate determined at the time of approval. If you would like additional information regarding this program, please contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM

Several types of loans are available to eligible applicants, including but not limited to; operating, farm ownership, beginning farmer, youth, emergency (when designated) and guaranteed loans. An emergency designation has been authorized and emergency loan applications will be accepted through July 16, 2007 for losses caused by storms containing excessive rain that occurred beginning April 26, 2006 and continuing.

If you are having trouble getting financial help or a suitable interest rate and payment plan elsewhere, we may be able to help. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

Plot	Trt#	PSNT Credit (#s)	Starter N (#s)	Chicken N (#s)	# N from NH4	Total #N	N Cost/Acre	Bu/Acre	Stalk N Test (PPM)	Plot Rank	Economic Return	Total N Ratio	Purchased N Ratio
Avg.	1	77	45	58	0	180	\$45.24	178.9	1370	4	Base	1.01	0.58
Avg.	2	77	45	58	35	215	\$53.64	185.4	101	3	\$11.04	1.16	0.74
Avg.	3	77	45	58	55	235	\$58.44	206.4	2806	1	\$69.22	1.14	0.77
Avg.	4	77	45	58	75	255	\$63.24	195.6	1922	2	\$15.38	1.30	0.91

PSNT Credit used was the average of 4 tests taken minus N from chicken manure

PSNT Test results recommended 40# of N be applied/A (average of 4 tests)

Total N Ratio=Total #N divided by Bushels of Corn

Purchased N Ratio= Purchased #N (total minus PSNT credit) divided by Bushels of Corn

Stalk N Test

< 700 ppm Low, 700 - 2000 ppm Optimal, > 2000 ppm Excess

Conclusions:

- Because of the variation in yield and block rank, we can't attribute yield difference completely to N.
- Low stalk PPM test on treatment 2 may have affected results
- Plot results were similar to 2005, the 55#N sidedressed rate produced the highest yield and the best economic return.

Concessions:

- Growing degree days were above average this year.
- At this plot, rainfall was excellent for corn this year.
- Corn yield was above average for this year.
- One soil test and four PSNT tests (by treatment) were taken for the plot
- Stalk N test was taken by treatment.
- The test plot was one soil type.

For more information contact Tom Wert, Groundwater Technician (810) 230-8766 ext.131 or Craig Burns, The Nature Conservancy (989) 723-9062.

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Farm Service Agency, American Customer Satisfaction Survey (ACSI)

This survey is a nationally recognized survey which will be conducted by phone on a random number of producers who have received Direct and Counter Cyclical Benefits and/or Marketing Assistance Loan Benefits. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes and the responses to this survey will assist FSA in the application process, payment process and program effectiveness as well as service delivery provided at the local FSA field offices.

If contacted, we would appreciate your participation and input in the improvement of services provided to all agricultural program participants visiting the Farm Service Agency, local offices.

AS ALWAYS, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PRODUCERS WE WORK WITH. YOUR PATIENCE AND FRIENDSHIP IS A BRIGHT SPOT IN OUR DAY. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE BUSINESS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FAMILY FARM. AS YOU PREPARE TO PLANT THIS SPRING, PLEASE MAKE SAFETY AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS. GOOD LUCK AND WE WISH YOU A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2007.