



October 2007

Tuscola County News

Tuscola County
USDA Service Center

Tuscola County FSA
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Caro, Michigan 48723
989-673-8173 (phone)
989-673-1848 (fax)

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

County Committee
Matt Zimba
Gene Bickel
Bruce Findlay
Karen Goodchild

Jonathan Link
County Executive Director

Bob Catherwood
Farm Loan Manager

**ATTENTION
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
ABOUT
PARTICIPATION IN
USDA FARM
PROGRAMS
ENCLOSED**

2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as *the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007*. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 will receive payment for the one year in which the benefit is the highest.



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.

A producer may be eligible for CDP if the crop losses resulted from any of the following:

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

To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer:

- was prevented from planting a crop;
- sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the expected production of a crop;
- or sustained a loss in excess of 35 percent of the value for value-loss crops.

In determining production, participants must supply verifiable and reliable production records to substantiate production to the FSA county committee. FSA uses RMA (crop insurance) loss records for insured crops where available and determined to be accurate.

FSA includes all harvested production, non-harvested appraised production, and assigned production for the total planted acreage of the crop unit to determine production under CDP.



The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

A participant may receive benefits for crop losses for only one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop years. Payments will be made not later than 60 days after a producer files completed applications necessary for FSA to determine producer eligibility for benefits.



The sum of the value of the crop not lost (if any), the CDP payment received and any crop insurance payment or payments received under NAP for losses to the same crop cannot exceed 95 percent of what the crop's value would have been if there had been no loss.

Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP quantity losses began October 15, 2007. No final signup date has been announced. Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a future date. ***Please contact your local county office to schedule an appointment to make application.***



2008 Farm Bill



Washington D.C. does NOT have a new farm bill in place at this time. Congress is still working on the laws for the new farm bill. We can not sign you up for the 2008 Program AT THIS TIME. When we have more information, it will be passed on to you by way of newspapers, newsletters, farm publications and radio broadcasts.

MILC X

The MILC and MILC X programs have come to an end with the closing of the farm bill. It is no longer necessary to send to the county office a copy of your milk production. If you have not sent in all months of your milk production, please do so. The required months of production to participate in the program were January thru December, 2006 and 2007.



Farm the Best Conserve the Rest

At this time, there is no scheduled Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up bid period for new whole field enrollments scheduled for 2008. However, the Tuscola County FSA is still able to take applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). Both the CREP and CCRP pay substantial annual rental payments and focus on taking out of production the most environmentally sensitive cropland acreage. Typically, these acreages are not the most productive from a crop production standpoint. CREP contracts are for 15 years and include extra financial incentives and payments from the State of Michigan. The CCRP contracts are for 10 to 15 years, contain added financial incentive payments, but do not provide payments from the State of Michigan. You will be working with our Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service through the enrollment process. In most cases, a paid for measurement service is required for acreage to be enrolled in these programs.

We are also currently processing the 2007 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP, CCRP & CREP) annual rental payments. If you have not received your payment as of today's date, please contact our office for you may need to update your Producer Eligibility forms. All Farm Service Agency offices across the Country must have producers up date these forms prior to such payments.



Commodity Loans

Commodity loans for eligible commodities continue to be available. The loan rates for 2007 crops are as follows:

Corn	\$ 1.93
Soybeans	\$ 4.94
Barley	\$ 1.69
Oats	\$ 1.34
Wheat	\$ 2.44 (Soft Red Wheat)
Wheat	\$ 2.38 (Soft White Wheat)

The final availability dates for 2007 crop loans are:

March 31, 2008 for Wheat, Barley & Oats and
May 31, 2008 Corn and Soybeans.

County Committee Elections

County Committee elections will be held in Gilford, Denmark, Juniata, Tuscola, Vassar, Arbela and Millington townships this year. Ballots will be mailed in November and need to be returned to this office by December 3, 2007. There are five nominees this year for the COC election in LAA#2. They are Gene Bickel, Sandra Bernreuter, Rodney Hecht, Wayne Dinsmoore and Duane Weber. Newly elected representatives will take office on January 1, 2008. Please exercise your right to vote.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

In order to receive your payments from various programs including DCP, CRP, CREP, Loans, LDP and Disaster, you must have your eligibility paperwork updated, and turned into our office. 2007 payments cannot be released until we have updated paperwork. If you have not received your payment(s), please contact our office to complete your paperwork. There are numerous persons that we still need updated information on.

GIS Mapping System

Aerial photos of each tract of land in Tuscola County have been sent out for your review. All producers were requested to review these maps and notify this office of corrections that needed to be made. Thank you for your quick response to the letters. This office has completed all the corrections that were reported to us, and is preparing to convert these new acreages so they will be available for use in the 2008 crop year. Much work behind the scenes still needs to be completed, however we are still planning on having this newer and more accurate information available for you.

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 pick up new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program payments.

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>.



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

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their local County Office in person or by phone.



Highly Erodible and Wetland Provisions

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?

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.

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your FSA or NRCS representative before you begin work.

Dates to Remember	
November 2	COC election Ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 12	Office closed for the observance of Veteran's Day
November 22	Office closed for the observance of Thanksgiving Day
December 3	Last day to Election Ballots
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	MILC Program
Continues	Continuous CRP and CREP



PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND BOUNTIFUL HARVEST SEASON

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.