



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washtenaw - Wayne News

Washtenaw - Wayne County FSA

7203 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone – 734-761-8789
FAX – 734-662-1686

Hours

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

County Committee

Walter Rochowiak
Marilyn Gordon
Luther Schaible
Robert Breuninger

Staff

Ruth Barker
Lori Maulbetsch
Lori Terreault

County Executive Director

Kathi Lerg

County Committee Meetings

1st Wednesday of each month

New Committee Member Elected

Congratulations to **Robert Breuninger**. Robert was elected to represent farmers from Webster, Northfield, Salem, Lima, Scio, Ann Arbor and Superior Townships on the County Committee.

We want to thank **Bob Mast** for his many years of service and wish him well.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

The Committee members held their organizational meeting on January 17, 2007 to determine who will serve as the County Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The results are as follows:

Walter Rochowiak	Chairperson
Luther Schaible	Vice-Chairperson
Marilyn Gordon	Member
Robert Breuninger	Member

SIGN UP NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!SIGN UP NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!SIGN UP NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

DCP SIGN UP

We can issue 2007 advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Update your DCP contract and put the advance payment to work for your farm today. Advance payments this year have changed from 2006. The advance payment rate will be made on 22 percent of the total payment and the remaining 78 percent will be made as a final payment in October, 2007. Farmers who want to update their contracts need to address land and business issues:

- Will you continue to rent the same property you rented last year? If not, notify the office so we can update your farm records or perform a reconstitution to remove land from your farming operation.
- A cash-rent certification may be used if you rented the land last year, however, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until July 1, 2007
- Are you changing the structure of your operation? Is the farm converting from an individual to a partnership or Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)? Are you changing shares within the business or is one of the shareholders leaving the business? These questions need to be answered prior to sign-up.

June 1 is the deadline for farmers to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program for 2007. Contracts signed after June 1, but no later than September 30, 2007 will require a \$100.00 late fee per farm.

You Must Enroll Each Year so before you get busy with planting season, give us a call and set up your appointment today.

Producers with a level 2 eAuthentication account can do an eDCP online.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the current Farm bill through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation total for fiscal years 2002 – 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

We will need documentation from all Corporations, Partnerships, LLC's and Trusts. If you are using an employee ID number. Prior to receiving payment you will be required to provide our office with:

- A certificate of Partnership or Assumed Name
- An annual statement filed at the Michigan Department of Labor

Bank Account Changes?

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Attention Producers, Landowners!

- 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?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm(s) this year?

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 questions or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your NRCS representative before you begin work.

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 directly or by phone

Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have four choices – an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation, appeal to State Committee and appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD).

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.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

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.

Change in Farming Operations?

Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to notify the office of a change in operations on a farm so records can be kept current and accurate.

Prevented Planting Acreage

Acreage ineligible for prevented planting credit includes, but is not limited to acreage that:

- was not planted because of a management decision
- was used for conservation purposes or intended to be or considered to have been left unplanted under any program administered by USDA.
- had a previous or subsequent crop planted that does not meet the double-cropping definition

To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit *must* report the acreage **within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.**

Important Dates to Remember

March 15 Final application date for Non – insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

March 31 Final loan LDP availability date for wheat, oats and barley

May 31 Final loan/LDP availability date for corn and soybeans

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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.

RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, please be sure you report the changes to the FSA office *as soon as possible* after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible delays in payment, program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.

Now Open For
Fun and Games



FSA Kids

www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids