



September 2010

# Huron County FSA News

## Huron County FSA Service Center

1460 S. Van Dyke Road  
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

989.269.9549 (phone)  
989.269.8421 (fax)

## Website

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

## Hours

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

## County Committee

Debra Kubacki  
Ken Koroleski  
Mark Roggenbuck  
Lisa Szymanski, Advisor

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the  
month at 9:30 a.m.

## Farm Program Staff

Becky Aubuchon  
Douglas Gay  
Connie Mattice  
Maggie Roggenbuck  
Susan Sauer  
Sandy Duda  
Charlie Errer

Nathan Prill, Director

## Farm Loan Staff

Ava Hacker  
Wendy Honoway  
Bob Catherwood

August 13, 2010



## 2008 Crop Disaster (SURE) Sign-up Deadline: Sept 30

Note: This program does not cover 2009 sprouted wheat losses. Information on the 2009 SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments) program will be available in the coming months.

Huron County received a primary disaster designation in 2008 due to excessive rain, flooding, and wind. With this designation, farmers must have had at least 1 crop with a 10% production loss as a result of a natural disaster to be eligible for SURE.

Further, farmers must have obtained crop insurance for all crops to be eligible for SURE. There are some exceptions for crops that were not economically significant (contributing at least 5% of the expected revenue for a farm) as well as for beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers that can be explained in further detail if applicable.

Remember, SURE is a revenue-based disaster program. We calculate payments based on the difference between the SURE program guarantee and the total farm revenue for your operation.

The program guarantee takes into account yield (APH), expected price, and the level of insurance coverage you purchased. Total farm revenue included the crop value, crop insurance indemnities, and other payments (LDPs and DCP) you have received from FSA.

If you had losses greater than 10% for a crop in 2008 that affected your total farm revenue, please call the office at 989.269.9549 Ext 2. to schedule an appointment.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

With the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, producers of eligible commodities can obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15-20 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 80-85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department (currently 2.25% to 3.125%).

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass, Fruits and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support programs, please contact the office.

## 2010 County Committee Election Update:

### County Committee Elections

This year, an election will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 including all of Huron, Gore, Bloomfield, Rubicon, Sigel, Sand Beach, Paris, and Sherman Townships. We are fortunate to have two very qualified candidates nominated to serve on the County Committee for this year:

Mark Roggenbuck, Rapson Road, Harbor Beach

Chris Grekowicz, Section Line Road, Harbor Beach

The next step in the election process is the mailing of the ballots, which will begin on November 5, 2010. Voters have until December 6, 2010, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2011.

**Prospective Voter Requirements** - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as item number 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Residents of LAA #3, watch your mailbox for an official county office committee election ballot starting in November. If for some reason, you do not receive a ballot, please notify the County Office immediately. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.



### USDA Provides Assistance to Asparagus Producers

Asparagus producers will have until September 23, 2010 to apply for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program for Farmers. The TAA for Farmers program provides technical training and cash benefits to eligible producers whose asparagus crops have been adversely affected by foreign competition.

To qualify, the producers must have produced asparagus during 2009 and at least one of the three marketing years preceding 2009. Producers must also provide documentation to verify the production and quantity of the commodity. Asparagus producers interested in applying for technical training and cash benefits must complete and submit a written application (form FSA-229-1) to their local FSA office.

Program benefits include cash payments and free technical training designed to help producers develop and implement business adjustment plans. Producers that develop an approved initial business plan will receive up to \$4,000 as payment toward implementing the plan or developing a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers who subsequently develop approved long-term business adjustment plans are entitled to receive an additional cash payment of up to \$8,000 to be applied toward implementing the plan.

Please stop by the FSA County Office before the deadline date. More information on about the TAA for Farmers Program can be found on the Foreign Agricultural Service Web site at [www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa)

### Unauthorized Disposition of Grain under Loan

If loan grain has been sold, fed, or disposed of in any manner without prior written authorization (Marketing Authorization) from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.



## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through to either 1) the date the loan is repaid or 2) CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan - even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.



## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary

## Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact your office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. In some instances, such as with market assistance (stored commodity) loans, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.





***Maintenance of DCP/ACRE Program Acres***

DCP/ACRE participants are required to protect all idle contract acres from erosion and weeds. Idle fields designated as “contract acres” must have a sod cover, crop residue, or volunteer grasses. Weeds are not an acceptable cover and must be mowed. Failure to control weeds on contract acres will cost you program benefits if the COC determines the producer failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion.

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 23          | TAA for Asparagus Growers  |
| Sept. 30          | 2008 SURE Sign-up Ends   |
| Sept. 30          | Final date to provide cash rental agreements for 2010 DCP/ACRE Program |
| Oct. 11           | Closed for the observance of Columbus Day                              |
| Ongoing           | Farm Storage Facility Loans  |
| Ongoing           | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program                                |

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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