



JACKSON COUNTY FSA

CRP-General Signup No.43

*Please make your appointment early to ensure timely enrollment service.
517.789.7716 ext. 205
(Susan Gray, PT)*

Water runoff and leaching;

- On-farm benefits from reduces erosion;
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and
- Cost

Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate options under CRP.

CRP Land Eligibility

To be eligible for placement in the CRP general sign-up, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (No planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for CRP sign-up 43.

In Addition to eligible land requirements, for general signup, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be expiring CRP acreage or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area. (Michigan is a conservation priority area due to Great Lakes)

FSA will accept General Enrollment offers only during the sign-up period. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP sign-up 43. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2012, may submit offers.

Jackson County USDA Service Center

Jackson County FSA
211 W. Ganson St.
Jackson, MI 49201-1241
517-789-7716 Ext. 2 (Ph.)
517-789-7886 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Committee

Thomas Zenz
Douglas Teller
June Coppennoll

Advisory

Joseph Luellen
(Appointment Pending)

County Committee meets
Third Thursday of the Month,
starting 9:00 a.m.
(Tentatively Scheduled subject to budget)

Staff

Tamela Smith, CED
Rhonda Sauber, PT
Susan Gray, PT
Amy Duxtader, PT

John Hancock, Field Reporter

Enrollment

FSA will conduct a four week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers and landowners to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits.

Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract terms are for 10 and 15 years. Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers based on relative environmental benefits for the land offered. FSA uses the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion,



2012 DCP & ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program open January 23rd 2012 and will close June 1st, 2012. Signup in the ACRE option is also available. Producers may call at anytime to set up an appointment with any staff member.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2012, advance direct payments will not be available option. .

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires completion of an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution or recons the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2009** for farms enrolled in specific programs.



The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forego counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The ACRE Program enrollment began on April 27, 2009 and ends August 14, 2009 sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged", "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Acres Reporting

Acres reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assis-

NRCS E.Q.I. P. SIGN-UP

USDA NRCS is currently accepting applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program with selection dates approaching in July. EQIP is a cost share program that assists agricultural producers with addressing resource issues and concerns on their farm such as erosion, inadequate fertilizer or manure storage and many others. Some common practices installed through the EQIP are secondary fertilizer and pesticide containment, nutrient and pest management, no-till or mulch till, and manure storage. With a new practice this year EQIP funds are now available for a producer to hire a Technical Service Provider to write a forest management plan for agricultural lands. Applications will be taken by NRCS on an ongoing basis. **If interested you may contact the NRCS or Jackson Conservation District at 517-784-2800 or 517-782-7404.**

tance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30, 2009 deadline on small grains and a July 15, 2009 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30, 2009 for small grains and July 15, 2009 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Please call the office to schedule your certification appointment or make arrangements to certify through the mail.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield current. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. A Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS COVERED BY NAP INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days after the normal harvest date. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, 2009 FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the **lesser** of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop. Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. **The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average** The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries. More details on specific crops are available at your county FSA office.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Dates to Remember	
May 25 th	Office closed for the Observance for Memorial Day
June 30 th	Last report day for fall seeded Small Grains-wheat, oats, etc.
July 3 rd	Office closed for the Observance of Independence Day
July 15 th	Last report day for all other crops.
August 14 th	Last day to sign up for DCP and ACRE
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

INTEREST RATES FOR MAY 2009	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

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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.