



# Monroe County News

July 2010

Issue No. 2

**Monroe County FSA  
USDA Service Center**  
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Monroe, MI 48161  
734-241-8540  
734-241-9432 ( fax)

**Web Sites**  
www.fsa.usda.gov  
www.sc.egov.usda.gov  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

**County Committee**  
Jim Vanbuskirk, Chairperson  
Carmen Cousino, Vice-Chair  
Richard Janssens, Member  
William Gay, Advisor

**Staff**  
Paul Manol, Director  
Carole Bogoski, Program Tech.  
Dawn Pluff, PT  
Roger Bezek, PT  
Jessica Squires, PT  
Rachel Bakowski, Field Asst.

**Dates to Remember**  
**July 15** – Deadline to report all crops except fall-seeded small grain  
**Aug 1** – Last day to request a farm combination or division  
**Continues** – Farm Storage Facility Loans  
**Continues** – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE

## **Crop Reporting Deadline July 15, 2010**

The annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of FSA programs. All cropland acres on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the following programs:

- **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP);**
- **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE);**
- **Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments;**
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);**
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**
- **All Disaster Assistance Programs, including the Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE).** *Note: Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before the disposition or destruction of the crop.*
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).** *Note: For NAP purposes, producers are required to file an acreage report by the extended acreage reporting date but no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest if that is earlier.*

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Producers need to file their acreage reports for all spring-seeded crops, which includes corn and soybeans, by close of business, Thursday, **July 15, 2010**. Any acreage reported after this date will require an on-site visit by an FSA Field Representative to verify planted crops. This will result in a minimum late filing fee charge of \$46 per farm serial number.

Please call the County FSA office if you have any questions.

## **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Internal Revenue Service* to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are **not** issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

**Participants in programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service to avoid any potential interruptions to program benefits.** (IRS address is on forms). These forms may be obtained at the County Office (FSA and NRCS) or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>

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

DCP 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.

## **Maintaining CRP Cover**

Cover maintenance for CRP is the participant’s responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All activity such as mowing, burning, and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife. **In Michigan this is after August 1 and before August 20.** Call the office if you have questions



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## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are available to those who share in the risk of producing an eligible commodity.

To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the commodity. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) minimum grade and quality standards. FSA offers loans on honey, wool and mohair, an assortment of grains, and other approved agricultural commodities.

Violating provisions of a 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 loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

**The 2010 loan rate for Soft Red Winter Wheat is \$1.88/Bu. The current interest rate is 1.375 percent.**

## **Signature Requirements**

Spouses may sign all program documents on behalf of each other without having a power of attorney on file. If for some reason you do not want your spouse to sign program documents on your behalf, we must be notified in writing. **Exception:** Commodity Loans - both spouses must sign for commodity loans, marketing authorizations and lock-in repayment rates unless a power of attorney is on file.

## **Nominations for County Committee Opened June 15**

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of Farm Service Agency (FSA). They help in the delivery of FSA farm programs at a local level, as well as, work to make FSA farm programs serve the needs of local producers.

Since COC elections happen once a year, here is a refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into Local Administrative Areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Monroe County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA #1, which includes Ash, Berlin, Exeter, London, and Milan counties. This position is currently held by Jim Vanbuskirk.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA county committee election representing producers in LAA #1 will be accepted from **June 15 through August 2, 2010.**

Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA #1, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age, may be nominated to serve on the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers may nominate candidates. All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2, or if mailed, postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

For your convenience, a nomination form (FSA-669A) can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Additional information on COC elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information ( Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. **Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Paul Manol at 734-241-8540, ext. 107**

<b>FSA-669A</b> (03-24-10)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b> Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:	5. COUNTY	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	6. LAA	7. STATE
3B. DATE	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:	

*I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.*

I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

*If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.*

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
    - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
    - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
    - C. Willing to serve if elected.
  - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
  - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
  - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
  - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
  - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

**NOTE:** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.*

Monroe County FSA Office  
1137 S. Telegraph Rd  
Monroe, MI 48161



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT #19

This form is available electronically.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

**FSA-669A**  
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

## NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

**Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee