



St Clair/Macomb FSA News

St Clair/Macomb FSA

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 Kimball Mi 48074
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi
 810 984-3865 Ext 2 (ph)
 810 984-2345 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Chairperson
 Ronald Parks
 Vice-Chairperson
 Ronald Beier
 Members:
 John Busemann
 James Koss
 Jeff Brown
 Advisor
 Loretta Domagalski

County Committee meets 3rd
 Wednesday of the month

Staff

Brenda Boyd
 Ellen Wilson
 Steve Simmons
 Karla Frammolino

Field Reporter

James Domagalski

County Executive Director

Dean Forrester

Farm Loan Officer

Larry Sheridan
 810 664-0895 Ext 2



CRP General Signup 39

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis; however, it has been 5 years since the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for CRP general signup August 2 through August 27, 2010.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, August 27, 2010. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, and cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

SURE PROGRAM SIGNUP ENDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

Both St Clair and Macomb Counties had Secretarial Disaster declarations for 2008, therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply.

To assist farmers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE calculator. To utilize the calculator, visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov/mi and look under "Hot Links". **Please note that the calculator and instructions linked on the FSA website are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way binds FSA to potential payments under SURE and should not be relied on as the sole source of information to make final management decisions.**

If you think that you qualify for SURE please call for an appointment.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for small grains, fall mint, fall speltz and forage crops is September 30, 2010.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE AN APPROVED NOTICE OF LOSS ON FILE AND YOU HAND HARVEST YOUR CROPS A POST HARVEST APPRAISAL IS REQUIRED.

Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

Please call now to set your appointment for the SURE signup. SURE signup ends September 30, 2010.



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.



Reporting Changes in Your Farm Operations

It is important that you contact the office with *any* record changes that may have occurred in your operation.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just please contact Larry Sheridan at (810) 664-0895.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

ACRE Yield Data Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2009 production certification to comply with ACRE was extended until September 1, 2010. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2004 through 2008) and the actual farm yield (2009).

Participants in the 2009 ACRE program must certify their yields by September 1, 2010 to remain eligible for ACRE benefits



Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on area farms. **Be careful.**

Remember to: Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.



Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation

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.

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 grain. Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain, Hay, renewable biomass, Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please visit your local FSA office.

Marketing Assistance Loan

A 9-month 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 the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or 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.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

2010 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

	St Clair	Macomb
Wheat	\$1.74	\$1.78
Corn	\$1.84	\$1.86
Oats	\$1.38	\$1.38
Barley	\$1.82	\$1.82
Soybeans	\$4.91	\$4.95

If you are interested in a commodity loan on wheat please call our office.

**County Committee
Meeting dates:**

August 18, 2010
September 15, 2010
October 20, 2010
November 17, 2010
December 9, 2010

**Meetings start at 9
A.M.**



Thoughts from the Fence Row!

It has been a busy summer, both for our farmers and for our office. We are finishing up crop certifications and reconstitutions. Please remember when you are notified that the reconstitution is completed, if it is for a participating DCP farm you only have thirty days from the date of the letter to enroll the farm into DCP for 2010.

Some farmers missed the June 1st deadline for enrolling into DCP this year; I would like to ask a favor of all of you, the 2011 DCP sign up begins on October 1, 2010 which is a time when I know that farmers are busy harvesting their crops. But take a moment and mark down on your calendars to give the office a call in early December or whenever you think that your harvest might be complete. As Ben Franklin once said “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Dean E Forrester

dean.forrester@mi.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

8/27/2010	Last day to sign up for CRP
9/1/2010	Last day to submit ACRE 2009 Production
9/6/2010	Labor Day (Office Closed)
9/30/2010	Last day to apply for NAP coverage for speltz & Forage crops
9/30/2010	Last to sign up for 2008 SURE
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi



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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.

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individual with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Dean Forrester (810) 984-3865, by phone or in person.