



# Arenac/Iosco County News

## USDA Service Centers

### Arenac County FSA

4490 W. M-61  
Standish, MI 48658  
989-846-4565 (phone)  
989-846-9641 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

### Iosco County FSA

190 M-55  
Tawas City, MI 48763  
989-362-3842 (phone)  
989-362-8382 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

### Hours

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

### Arenac Co. Committee

Ed Stange  
Brandon Johnson  
Ken Daniels  
Courtney Rolfe

### Iosco Co. Committee

Joe Vohwinkle  
Al Erickson  
Chris Daniels  
Karen Curry

Arenac Committee meets:  
Second Wednesday of  
the Month at 9:00 a.m.

Iosco Committee meets:  
Second Thursday of the  
Month at 9:30 a.m.

### Staff

Tim Stein, CED  
Diane Bartlett  
Melanie Barnes  
Ruth Gulvas  
Lyn Potts  
Jim Estes  
Joe Daniels



## Enroll your Environmentally Sensitive Cropland into the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is a voluntary enrollment program in which landowners and operators are given the opportunity to establish conservation covers on environmentally sensitive cropland to reduce soil erosion, improve wildlife habitat and food sources. Acreage is placed under contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the participant receives annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain practices, and cost-share for practice establishment.

- To be eligible for the CCRP, participants and acreage must meet certain eligibility requirements. Provided that the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollment acreage into the CCRP. As the program name implies, land can be enrolled on a continuous basis any time of the year.
- The CCRP is but one component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Periodically, the USDA conducts whole field enrollment opportunities into the Conservation Reserve Program that are known as General Sign-ups. Under General Sign-ups, individual acreage enrollment offers are selected under a competitive process based on a score known as the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Eligible cropland that was not accepted during that general sign-up can be re-offered during the next general sign-up or offered under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

For more information on the CRP and CCRP enrollment requirements, available practices and program payments, please contact your local FSA office or visit our website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>

## 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.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using

## **-Attention Landowners-**

FSA is finding that many of you are transferring your property into trusts.

Regulations require FSA to record revisions when land changes hands, even if it's from an individual to his or her trust. FSA requires proof of ownership to update farm records. This ensures that FSA program contracts list the correct landowner.

*If you're to the point of recording deeds in your trust's name, contact FSA immediately.*

Program payments may be delayed if information is not kept current.

## **Wetland Compliance**

If you plan on clearing, draining, or dredging land, or perform tile maintenance of any kind, you need to file an AD-1026 with our office before you begin. Failure to do so could result in the loss of USDA benefits.

acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact Lyn in Arenac or Melanie in Iosco.

## **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup Continues**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm;

- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Arenac and Iosco Counties **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE. Signup is currently ongoing.

**The deadline to apply for SURE on 2008 crops has been set as September 30, 2010.**

## **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 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.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements,



## 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.



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. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

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

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.

## 2010 ACRE Production

As part of the ACRE program compliance, producers are to submit acceptable production evidence. Examples of acceptable production evidence are:

1. Sales receipts – Evidence must show the following: buyer or storing facility, transaction or delivery date, and quantity.
2. FSA Measurement service
3. Crop Insurance or FSA appraisal.  
This option is available for those commodities not stored in a measurable facility or that will be harvested as either silage or forage.

Please contact our office for assistance in determining the best method for obtaining acceptable production evidence. Failure to provide the necessary production evidence will affect payment eligibility for crops planted in 2010, and the farm's benchmark yield for the

2011 program year.

## 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.

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### 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 whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain



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

Dates to Remember	
Sept 30	2008 SURE sign up ends
Sept 30	NAP enrollment deadline
Oct. 11	Closed for the observance of Columbus Day
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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 the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (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.