



Barry County News

Barry County USDA Service Center

Barry County FSA
1611 S Hanover Street
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-8037 (phone)
269-945-5530 (FAX)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 – 4:30

County Committee
Kenneth Osborne
Tom Eckert
Darrell Newton
Nianne Jarrard, Advisor

**County Committee
meets her first
Wednesday of
each month.**

Staff
Charlie Mater
Peggy Papoi
JoAnn Erway
Claude Smith, Field
Asst.
Mark Van Buren, CED



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Tom Eckert has been reelected to the County FSA Committee to represent Carlton, Woodland, Hastings and Castleton Townships (Local Administrative Area 2). Kenneth Heise also received a write in vote.

2010 ACREAGE REPORTING

Most FSA and CCC Programs require producers to annually report their crop acres. Acreage reporting begins June 1. Fall wheat must be reported by June 30. All other crops by July 15. There is a \$46 late filing fee for crops reported after these dates.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) RULES

AGI compliance is an eligibility requirement for most FSA programs. FSA and the IRS will be sharing data to monitor AGI compliance. Program participants must provide consent to the IRS to use and disclose tax information to FSA for AGI compliance. Producers must submit a *Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information* form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) directly to the IRS. Producers who do not submit a completed form will be determined noncompliant with AGI limitations. The forms are available at the FSA office.

PERMANENT DISASTER PROGRAM PROVISIONS

Crop insurance or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required on **all crops, including hay**, as a condition of eligibility for disaster assistance under the 2008 Farm Bill. Please contact your insurance provider for sales closing dates. NAP enrollment dates vary by crop. Contact the FSA office for NAP coverage.

DCP/ACRE PROGRAM SIGN UP

Producers can begin enrolling in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election for the 2010 crop year. ***The DCP/ACRE enrollment deadline for 2010 is June 1, 2010!***

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN UP FOR 2008 LOSSES

Producers with crop losses in **2008** can apply for benefits from the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program. SURE is the permanent “Disaster” program that was part of the 2008 Farm Bill. SURE will look at producers’ revenue over their entire farming operation when determining a loss. Producers must have had crop insurance on all their crops, or participated in the eligibility “Buy Ins” held in the fall of 2008 or spring of 2009 to be eligible for benefits under SURE.

**DIRECT AND COUNTER
CYCLICAL/ACRE PROGRAM
PROVISIONS**

Planting Flexibility – Participants may plant cropland in excess of base acreage to any commodity. However, there are no recognized double cropping practices in Michigan.

Planting Limitations – Producers/farms must have a history of planting fruits or vegetables (FAV) to plant FAVs on base acres. Producers/farms with history will have an acre for acre reduction in payment for FAVs planted on base acres.

DCP Payment Calculations – base acres x .833 x commodity payment rate x the farms payment direct (or counter cyclical) yield.

ACRE Payment Calculations – planted or considered planted acres of crop x .833 x (benchmark farm yield/benchmark State yield) x lesser of (State ACRE guarantee – actual State revenue) or (State ACRE guarantee x 25%)

Farm Reconstitutions – A reconstitution on an enrolled farm will void the DCP contract for the farm. Resulting farms can be enrolled and will require all signatures/leases.

Refund of Advance Payments – refunds are required on all unearned direct or counter cyclical payments.

Signature Requirements – All producers earning shares and successors-in-interest on the DCP contract are required to sign the contract and submit eligibility forms including highly erodible land/wetland, payment eligibility and adjusted gross income certifications.

PAYMENT LIMIT

All programs subject to payment limitations require the participant to file a Farm Operating Plan for Payment Limitation Eligibility Review. Payments cannot be made until all payment limitation information is on file. In certain cases the County FSA Committee can initiate a payment limitation determination. Persons found not actively engaged in farming will be ineligible for program payments. For those farm operations that are entities the names, addresses, and taxpayer ID numbers of all members must be reported. -All payment limitation information is subject to verification through an end of year review.

Certain changes in a farming operation require the updating of payment limitation information. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in:

- contract shares or lease arrangements
- size of operation by adding or deleting a farm
- structure of farming operation including changes in member's shares
- contributions of capital, equipment, labor, or management
- acquisition of farming interests not previously disclosed

**FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE
ACT**

Foreign persons who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in agricultural land are required to report these holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Reports are due within 90 days of a transaction. If you are an owner selling land to a foreign person please inform them of these requirements. Failure to report could result in penalties.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency provided credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources including:

-Operating loans for financing machinery, livestock, crop inputs, debt refinancing

-Farm Ownership loans for farmland, buildings, or improvements

-Down Payment Farm Ownership loans for beginning farmers

-Guarantee loans made by local lending institutions with the assistance of a guarantee from USDA for the lender to extend credit when normal lending requirements are not met

-Youth loans to assist youngsters in starting profitable ventures while serving as an introduction to credit and financing

-Emergency loans when the area becomes an approved disaster area and losses exceed 30%

Contact Paul Wagner, Farm Loan Manager (616) 527-2098 for more information on FSA's Farm Loan Programs.

CONDUCTING BUSINESS ELECTRONICALLY WITH USDA eGOV

eGOV provides USDA Service Center Agencies (FSA, NRCS, RD) customers the option of electronically accessing, printing, filling out and submitting forms and program applications. To fully utilize eGOV capabilities producers set up their own account for electronic signature authority at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov. Once registered the producer visits the FSA office to activate his account and receive a password to conduct business electronically with USDA agencies. Current programs available through eGOV include loan deficiency payments, Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program contracts, and financial inquiries that allow producers to track USDA payments and deposits.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Please report all farm record changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Many producers assume FSA automatically updates farm records with new owners. We can only update farm records when we are informed of the change by the farm's owner or operator.

FARM DIVISIONS-DESIGNATION OF BASES BY LANDOWNER

The designation by landowner method of dividing crop acreage bases is done by agreement between the parent farm owner and purchaser. When requested, this method allows all parties to agree to the division of the parent farm's crop acreage bases on the resulting farms.

SPOUSE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Spouses can sign documents on each other's behalf for FSA or CCC programs unless written notification denying this authority has been filed in the County office.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact Paul Wagner Farm Loan Manager or Sara Possehn Farm Loan Officer at (616) 527-2098 for more details and assistance in applying.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Loans are available for the construction of new commodity storage facilities and the expansion of existing facilities. Producers may borrow up to \$500,000 for a term of 7 to 12 years. Storage need, down payment requirements, repayment ability, and loan security requirements must be met for loan approval.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE INTEGRITY

The Farm Service Agency will assist RMA and approved insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud waste and abuse to their local County office, RMA office, or OIG. FSA will provide producer information to RMA and approved insurance providers to assist in claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews.

Dates to Remember	
June 1	Last Date to Enroll in 2010 DCP/ACRE Programs
June 1	2010 Crop Reporting Starts
June 30	Final Date to Report 2010 Wheat
July 15	Last Date to Report All Other Crops
July 15	Last Date to Report 2009 Crop Yields for ACRE
Continuing	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continuing	Continuous Conservation Reserve and SAFE Programs

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

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, 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.