



Ingham County FSA News

June 2010

Issue No. 2

**Ingham County FSA
USDA Service Center**
521 N Okemos St
Mason, MI 48854
Phone 517-676-4644 Ext. 2
Fax 517-676-7011

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
Vern Elliott Chairperson
Gary Hoisington, Vice-Chair
Terrence Butler, Member
Russell Oesterle, Member
Larry Minnis, Member
Jeanine Igl, Advisor

Staff
Ronda K Bozek-Smith, CED
Joanna Rogers, Program Tech.
Karen Vozarik, PT
Gretchen Wasper, PT
Ralph Huss, Field Asst.
Dave Hemker in Owosso, FLM

Dates to Remember

June 15 – Deadline to mail forms CCC-927/928 to IRS
June 30 – Deadline to report fall-seeded small grains
July 5 – Office closed in observance of Independence Day
July 15 – Deadline to report all crops except fall-seeded small grain
July 15 - Deadline to submit ACRE Yields for 2009
Aug 1 – Last day to request a farm combination or division for non-participating farms.
Continues – Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE

COC Election Calendar

August 2, 2010: Last day to file nomination forms
November 5, 2010: Ballots mailed to eligible voters
December 6, 2010: Last day to return voted ballots
January 1, 2011: Elected committee members and alternates take office.

Crop Reporting Deadlines Fast Approaching

Producers are required to file an accurate acreage report with planting dates for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage to maintain eligibility for a variety of FSA programs.

June 30- Fall seeded crops

July 15- Spring seeded crops

Program benefits requiring acreage reports with planting dates include:

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments;
- Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) payments;
- Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP);
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Annual Rental Payments;
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Annual Rental Payments;
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
- All Disaster Assistance Programs, including Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE). 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) Payments; 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 than the extended acreage reporting date.

Farms where the acreage is not timely reported will be assessed a late-filing fee in order to retain program benefits. Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline date. More information on FSA programs can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mi.

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 for 2009 and 2010. 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 by June 15, 2010 to avoid interruption of 2010 program benefits or refund of 2009 payments already received. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>

ACRE Yield Requirements

Farmers who are participating in the ACRE program have the requirement to establish both their historical yields on the ACRE farm and to report their yields each year for all crops of economic significance. Producers who signed up in 2009 must certify their 2004-2008 yields or accept the plug yields. They must also certify their 2009 actual yields. This must be done by July 15, 2010! **If you are participating in ACRE and have not completed your yield certifications please contact us immediately and we will help you sort it out!**



Nominations for County Committee Open 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 County Committee 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. Ingham County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2 and 3, which include for LAA 2- Alaieton, Aurelius, Delhi, Leslie, Onondaga and Vevay Townships, LAA 3- Bunker Hill, Ingham, Stockbridge and White Oak Townships. These positions are currently held by Russell Oesterle in LAA 2 and Vern Elliott in LAA 3.

Nominations for candidates to run for the FSA county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Areas 2 and 3 will be accepted from June 15 through August 2, 2010.

Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA's 2 and 3, 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 postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE) SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the SURE program has begun with no deadline announced. The SURE program covers the 2008 crop year losses due to weather related disasters. If you received crop insurance payments in 2008 chances are you will receive a SURE payment!

Requirements are:

- You must have had Federal Crop Insurance or NAP coverage on all crops that contribute at least 5 percent of the expected revenue for your farming operation, in all counties, and at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition.
- Your crops must have been grown in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or you must have proof of an individual loss of at least 50% for yield or crop quality losses.
- Losses are measured in whole-farm revenue in comparison to State Averages, revenue includes average crop prices x yield, crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments.
- In most cases, your eligibility can be calculated using Crop Insurance down loads in our office
- **You must contact your county office to have your application run! Applications are NOT done automatically!!!**

NAP (Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program) Notes

- NAP policies holders must submit 2009 production for NAP crops by July 15th. **This includes producers with 2009 policies for alfalfa, pickles, and other vegetables.**
- Fall seeded crops, such as alfalfa, must have their 2011 NAP policies purchased by September 30, 2010. If your Alfalfa or mixed hay exceeds 5% of your total revenue you may want to consider this for SURE eligibility in 2011!
- Producers with road side stands or hand harvested crops must contact the FSA office within 15 days after harvest so field checks can be done.
- Producers must also contact the office within 15 days of known losses to start the payment process.

FSA-669A (03-24-10)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 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.

Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.

(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

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.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <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	GENDER <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.



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

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 Ingham Co FSA at 517-676-4644, ext. 2