



# Jackson County News

**Jackson County FSA  
USDA Service Center**  
211 West Ganson Street  
Jackson, MI 49201  
517-789-7716 ext. 2  
517-789-7886 ( 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**  
Gaylord Lincoln, Chairperson  
Thomas Zenz, Vice-Chair  
Doug Teller, Member  
Jospeh Luellen, Advisor

**Staff**  
Rhonda Sauber, PT  
Carolyn Crenshaw, PT  
Susan Gray, PT  
Amy Doxtader, PT  
John Hancock, Field Asst.  
Russell LaFollette FLM  
Tamela Smith CED



**ATTENTION:**  
This is the last newsletter for this year. Please feel free to contact the office if you have questions, and continue to look for news releases published in local publications for updated information regarding FSA programs.



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, cost-share and technical assistance.



## *Maintenance of CRP Cover*

CRP participants: cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Mowing activities may be allowed once per year and **ONLY** if needed to maintain the cover which means **only clipping weeds off to the top of the established cover**, and **ONLY** on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. Mowing for esthetic reason is not permitted. Mowing is only allowed between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> to protect ground nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter.

**APPOINTMENTS ARE  
ENCOURAGED...your time  
is valuable, workload is high, staff  
is limited, so please call ahead!  
We really appreciate it.**

## -Attention Landowners-

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

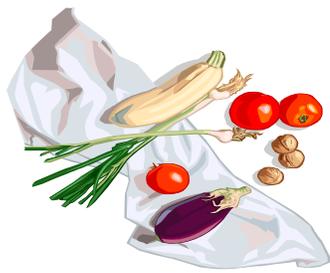
Regulations require FSA to record revisions when land changes hands, even if it's from an individual to his or her trust. FSA requires proof of ownership to update farm records. This ensures that FSA program contracts list the correct landowner.

*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.



## 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 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 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.

## SURE SIGNUP – DEADLINE (9/30/10) ANNOUNCED

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred 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.

Jackson County **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance, buy-in or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE.

**The deadline to apply for 2008  
SURE is  
September 30, 2010.**



## 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 (currently 2.75% to 3.5%).

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
- 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.

## Civil Rights -Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Nominations for County Committee

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are:

June Coppernoll is nominated in LAA 2 Jackson County, to serve as a committee member. Coppernoll resides at 12735 Lansing Ave, Leslie, Mi and has been involved in the dairy industry, and has produced corn, soybeans and hay.

Phillip Walicki is nominated in LAA 2 Jackson County, to serve as a committee member. Walicki resides at 6975 Pomeroy Rd, Parma, Mi and produces corn and soybeans.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 2 (Springport, Tompkins, Rives, Parma, Blackman and Sandstone townships) who do not received a ballot during the month of November should contact the FSA county office staff.

## 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.

## 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.



### Commodity Loans

Jackson County Producers are reminded that commodity loans are available for 2010 corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, and grain sorghum at the following loan rates:

Corn	\$1.87
Soybeans	\$4.99
Soft Red Wheat	\$1.80
White Wheat	\$2.08
Oats	\$1.38
Barley	\$1.82
Grain Sorghum p/cwt	\$3.33

### Fraud Leads to Disqualification

Producers found to have committed crop insurance fraud are ineligible for a number of programs administered by FSA and CCC. Any person found to have committed fraud will receive a notice and will have an opportunity for a hearing on the record. The person may be disqualified from receiving any benefits under a number of programs for a period of up to 5 years. Other sanctions may also apply.

### FARM LOANS

Interested in getting a FARM LOAN? Call Russ Lafollette at 517-849-9890, for information on the following types:

- \*Beginning & Limited Resource Farmers
- \*Rural Youth Loans
- \*FSA Farm Loans
- \*Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

Dates to Remember	
August 27	Final date to apply for CRP General Sign-up 39
September 6	Office Closed for Labor Day
September 30	NAP Sales Closing Date for Fall Crops
September 30	Final date to apply for SURE
October 11	Office closed for Columbus Day
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

### Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on Jackson County farms. **Be careful.** Jackson County FSA employees care about our customers.

Remember to do all your safety checks prior to operating machinery or climbing into a grain bin!

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, audiotope, 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.