



Monroe County News

Monroe County USDA Service Center

Monroe County FSA
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI 48161
734-241-8540 (phone)
734-241-9432 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

County Committee
James VanBuskirk
Carmen L. Cousino
Richard Janssens

County Committee meets
8:30 AM, 3rd Wednesday
of the month

Staff

Paul Manol
County Executive Director
Ext. 107

Farm Program Techs

Carole Bogoski x 110
Dawn Pluff x 113
Roger Bezek x 108
Jessica Koropcsak x 109

Field Reporter
Rachel Bakowski

Farm Loan Manager
Michael Jordon
(Lenawee County)
517-263-7400, x110



DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.



The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form, which can be found at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office is referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, and/or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm **must** be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form, FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP/SAFE) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Further, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Ongoing ACRE Signup

Signup for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. ACRE provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20% reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Election into ACRE is irrevocable. Once in ACRE, the land stays in through 2012.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, barley, sunflowers, oats, & soybeans.

ACRE payments are based on the revenue lost on the base crop **actually planted** and designated per each FSA Farm number. Your 5-year yield history of this planted crop will have to be established for each FSA farm number.

The best way to determine if your farm will benefit from the ACRE program is to visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

Attention Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants: Cover maintenance is **your** responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan.

Mowing for cosmetic purposes or general weed control is **not** allowed and **will** result in financial penalties.

Mowing maintenance activities may be allowed once per year if it's needed to maintain the approved cover, but only that portion of the planting in need of maintenance can be mowed.

Mowing is only allowed between August 1st & August 20th to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover.

Non-mowing maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1st & March 31st and may only be done **once** per year if needed to maintain the approved cover.

Contact the FSA Office **prior** to conducting any maintenance on your CRP acres. Producers **must** request permission to perform maintenance activities prior to the date specified in their contracts and each project must be approved by the COC on a case-by-case basis

Farm Bill Meeting

A meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Monroe County MSU Extension Office, which is located at 963 Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI. The main topic of the meeting will be the DCP/ACRE program, but any other issues relating to the new Farm Bill will be on the table.

For more information please call either Ned Birkey, Monroe County MSU Extension Service, at 734-240-3172 or Paul Manol at 734-241-8540, ext 107. Hope to see you there!

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Paul Manol at 734-241-8540, email @ paul.manol@mi.usda.gov, or by Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

County Committee (COC) Nominations

This fall, producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 3 (Dundee, Raisinville, Frenchtown, Monroe & Lasalle Townships) will be voting to elect their representative on the Monroe COC. The locally-elected COC is a unique system by which Federal farm programs are administered locally. COC reviews county office operations and provides input/decisions on how programs are managed. This grassroots approach gives farmers a much-needed say in how FSA actions affect their communities and individual operations.

Nominations for candidates will be accepted from June 15 to August 3, 2009. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available at the County Office, 1137 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/election under the *Newsroom* tab (top of web page). You must then click on [County Election Committee Information](#) (middle of web page).

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in early November, are due back at the County Office by December, 7 2009, and will be counted at the December COC meeting. The newly-elected COC member will then begin their 3-year term on January 1, 2010.



2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

For more information about the new spot check selection procedure feel free to contact our office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities. All FSFL loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loans require a 15 percent down payment & are for a term of seven years. Loans to erect new storage facilities are available at the attractive interest rate.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution, or *recon*, is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested **by August 1st** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

Estate Method - the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method - used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);

DCP Cropland Method - a division of base acres in the same proportion so that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method - division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the recon will be effective for the next year unless the payments are refunded.



Payment Limitations Changes

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years. Anyone who plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. **All members of an entity must make a contribution.** All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in a legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Program Payment Limitations, in part, are:

DCP Direct Payments	\$40,000
DCP Counter Cyclical	\$65,000
DCP/ACRE	\$65,000
CRP	\$50,000
GRP. WHIP, WRP	\$50,000
NAP	\$100,000

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.



Farm Record Changes

We strongly encourage you to report all farm record changes to this office as soon as possible. This will save you time and current records make for a more accurate and efficient sign-up.

LOANS FOR BEGINNING & SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who has operated a farm for **not more than 10 years**, will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA, and does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's median size.

Dates to Remember	
7/3/09	Office Closed - Independence Day Holiday
8/1/09	Last day to report farm record changes/request reconstitutions
8/3/09	Last day to submit COC nominations
8/14/09	Final day to sign up for DCP & ACRE contracts Final date to certify crop plantings
9/7/09	Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday
9/30/09	Deadline to purchase NAP forage crops and insurable fall seeded crops
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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.