



July/August 2009



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Ottawa County News

**Ottawa County
USDA Service Center**

Ottawa County FSA
16731 Ferris St
Grand Haven MI 49417
616-842-5852 (phone)
616-842-2820 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Kirk Haverdink, Chair
Wayne Hecksel, Vice Chair
David Pyle, Member

Advisor
Helen Dietrich

County Committee
ordinarily meets the first
Wednesday of each month

Farm Program Staff
Blain Becktold, CED
Dawn Essenburg, PT
Jackie French, PT
Andy Stille, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Leslie Wills, FLM
Susan McIntosh, PT

Field Agent
Les Kloosterman



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

2009 Crop Certification

Ordinarily June 30 was the final date to certify fall seeded grains and July 15 was the final date to certify all other planted acres but **the deadline for 2009 crop reporting has been extended to August 14, 2009.** Please call for an appointment in advance. Please be prepared to report planting dates at the time of your certification appointment.

DCP or ACRE

You may continue to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or you may decide the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is right for you. **THE DEADLINE TO ENROLL IN EITHER DCP OR ACRE IS AUGUST 14, 2009.** The decision to participate in ACRE requires participation by the landowner and all producers on the farm. ACRE payments are based on what you plant, compared to DCP payments that are issued on your historical base acres. ACRE payments are based on State revenue (price times yield) for a crop, while counter-cyclical payments (cc) are based on National prices. ACRE program benefits are paid when both your farm and your State have a revenue loss for the crop. The revenue feature of ACRE has the potential to provide higher payments than cc payments and could also provide better risk protection. If you elect ACRE, you would forgo 20% of the direct payments, all of the cc payments, and 30% of the loan rate. ACRE payments are based on recent market prices, which may be higher than the fixed target prices under the DCP program.

There are many variables that determine if ACRE is beneficial for your operation, including both your farm and State's revenue for the crop. Since these variables are difficult to forecast, you must do your homework. You must also know how well your yields correlate with the State average. For example, if your yields often decline when the State yields remain high, ACRE may not be for you.

The FSA has a web page has lots of information and tools available at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. On this website, there is also an excel spreadsheet that you can use to determine if ACRE may provide you with the benefits you need. Also, many universities have excellent web sites to help you make your decision.

If you decide not to participate in ACRE in 2009, you will get the chance in subsequent years. If you decide to participate in ACRE in 2009, the farm remains in ACRE through 2012.

ACRE may be a good tool to manage risk on your farm, so it is important to learn all you can about it now. Remember, the deadline to enroll is August 14, 2009.

ACRE Educational Sessions will be held:

Aug 7 from 9 am-noon at Zeeland Twp. Hall
6582 Byron Rd/Zeealand

Aug 7 from 2:00-5:00 pm at Alpine Twp. Hall/2408 7 Mile Rd, NW/Comstock Park

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 3** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Storage Loans Available

The current interest rate is 3.25% (changes monthly). This is a seven year low cost government loan to build or remodel storage facilities for commodities including corn, soybeans and wheat. Please call for details.

Seeking 2009 County Committee (COC) Member Nomination

The nomination period for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 (South of Grand River to the South boundary line of Ottawa County, including Allendale, Tallmadge, Blendon, Georgetown and Jamestown) begins June 15 and ends August 3, 2009.

COC's are important because they help deliver federal programs, an important aspect of our service to agriculture. We encourage all producers to get involved by nominating eligible candidates to serve on county committees. We especially urge beginning farmers and ranchers

Seeking County Committee Advisor

The office is seeking individuals to serve in a paid capacity to serve as a COC Advisor. Advisors are needed to be a voice for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, to ensure their interests are fairly represented. The COC solicits nominations annually and makes recommendations to the Michigan State Committee for a particular nominee to be appointed.

The appointment is for a 12-month period, effective March 1 of each year. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the county office.

MILC

Remember to submit your monthly milk production statement to the county office. Also, if you have not already selected a start month for the 2010 program, this must be done by September 14.

New Loan Repayment Method

As of April 15, 2009, the daily USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation loan repayment rates for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will be based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will begin announcing each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method is intended to minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries

Dates to Remember	
August 3	Final date to request Recons Final date to submit nomination petitions for COC
August 14	DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
August 14	2009 Crop Reporting Deadline
September 14	MILC Start Month 2010
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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