



January 2010

SANILAC FSA County Office News

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA Service Center

Sanilac County FSA
50 E Miller Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
810-648-2998 (phone)
810-648-4670 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee

Mark Stone, Chair
Mike Bender, Vice Chair
Mary Nichol, Member
Sally Grout, Advisor

County Executive Director
Rosemarie Gallagher

Farm Loan Manager
Steve Craig

Office Staff

Amy Brown
Kim Deming
Dorann Miller
Brenda Nichol
Sherri Sadro
Felicia Schulte

Walter Bonczar
Ken Janowiak



Payment Processing

With the passage of the new farm bill in 2008, several mandates brought changes to payment processing. These changes affect anyone who receives program payments from the Farm Service Agency. Changes include:

- Statements are now sent directly from Kansas City, and not from our local office
- Final direct payments for DCP showed **reductions for any advance payment you requested and received** earlier this year.
- The sum of ALL advance payments you received were totaled and subtracted from the **first farm(s)** that are processed.
- Once the advance payments are all accounted for, you will receive **100% of the annual payment on all subsequent farms.** (no deduction for advances).
- All payments may also have a short delay in processing in order to search for any outstanding Federal debt. If an outstanding Federal debt is discovered, the payment will be applied to offset the debt.
- Direct Deposit payments made by FSA will show up as **FSA TREAS 310** on your bank statement.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

BACKGROUND

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to the prior Ad Hoc Crop Disaster Programs. Unlike the prior USDA Disaster Programs, SURE is legislated through 2011. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer and all hay crops.

ELIGIBLE FARMS

SURE payments are available to producers on farms that are located in a county covered in a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or in a contiguous county OR the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

To be eligible for the SURE Program, all of the farming operation's crops (planted or intended) that are of economic significance must be covered by either Federal Crop Insurance (CI) or FSA's Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. Coverage must also be obtained for other crops for which CI or NAP is available, such as nursery, honey, and floriculture. However, coverage for grazed crops is not required for SURE.

Eligible farmers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farm do not have to meet the CI requirement.

Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is, and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.



Spousal Signature

A husband and wife can sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. This procedure does not apply to the commodity loan, Farm Loan, or LDP programs. Spouses must have an FSA-211 on file to sign commodity loan documents or LDP applications on behalf of each other. Spouses are not authorized to sign FSA-211 on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

SURE, Continued

PAYMENT CALCULATION

Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue.

DISASTER PROGRAM GUARANTEE

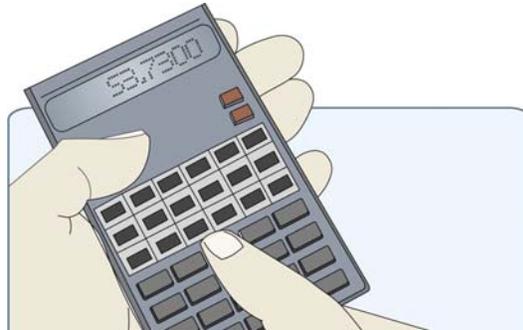
The guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected. Higher levels of coverage will result in higher crop guarantees. For NAP crops, the guarantee is based on a formula that includes the yield, acreage, and price factors. The farms Disaster Program guarantee cannot exceed 90% of the expected revenue for the farm.

TOTAL FARM REVENUE

Included in the Total Farm Revenue calculation are estimated crop value, CI indemnities, NAP payments, Market Assistance Loan proceeds, other disaster payments, DCP payments (15% of direct payments, plus all CC payments and ACRE payments).

SURE CALCULATOR

To assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE Calculator. Note that to qualify for SURE; producers need to obtain CI or NAP on all crops in all counties in all states. To utilize the Calculator, visit the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov Under "I want to . . ." in the upper right corner, click on "View Farm Bill Information"



Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)

With the possibility of milk prices increasing and having no MILC contract payments, raises the question . . . should a dairy producer continue to provide the monthly production evidence to the county office?

The dairy producer is certainly not required to provide production evidence in a month in which no payment is available. However, the recent issuance of the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP), having the production evidence on file at the office accelerated the availability of these program benefits. We encourage you to continue bringing in your production evidence.

RECORD CORRECTIONS AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Farmers are encouraged to get all of their records updated with our office as soon as they can in preparation for DCP/ACRE signup and crop reporting. If you are purchasing new land, adding new land to your operation or dropping land, we ask that you come in and let us know of the changes.

ONLINE SERVICES

If you have internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office.

If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 Access at: <http://www.eauth.egob.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.



Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) for 2010

Enrollment for the 2010 DCP program has begun and will continue through the deadline of June 1, 2010, USDA will not accept any late filed applications. Farmers may contact the local office for an appointment or make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up. Don't delay signing up, June 1st comes at most farmer's busiest time and a 22% advance payment is available.

Base acres must be planted to an annual crop, be in hay, or idle grasses. Fruits & Vegetables (FAV) can not be planted on base acres unless the farm or producer has FAV history. In cases where FAVs can be planted, the producer will receive an acre-for-acre reduction in their program payment.

Farms with less than 10.0 acres of base will be ineligible for payments. Exceptions apply to socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers.

Payments can only be earned by the person who has the risk in producing and marketing the crop.

Annual crop certification of all cropland on the farm is required. HEL and wetland provisions apply.

Lease agreements will be needed if an advance payment is requested prior to June 1st.

Leases must include at a minimum:

- Landowner & Operator names printed and signatures
- Signature dates
- The type of lease (cash, barter, with terms)
- Length of lease if multiple years (3 year lease from 2009-2011)

Also helpful, if the number of acres rented and the landowners address is included.

Cash Rent Certification: CCC-510 form can be completed by anyone who is requesting no advance or advance payment after June 1st, if all requirements are met, must have rented the farm and received a payment in the pervious crop year.

Direct Payment is a guaranteed payment calculated using the farm base & yield. Payment rates are per bushel:

Barley	0.24	Corn	0.28
Oats	0.024	Soy	0.44
Wheat	0.52		

Counter Cyclical payments are a payment based on a 12 month marketing cycle in comparison to the target price. This is **not** a guaranteed payment.

Average Crop Revenue (ACRE)

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5 year 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 in the guaranteed direct payment
- Accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

ACRE payments are revenue based and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market price for planted covered commodity crops on the farm.

Reporting Requirements

Producers who participate in ACRE must annually report acreage and **production** to FSA by the acreage reporting deadline of July 15th (June 30th for Wheat)



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact this County Office in person or by phone.

Committee Election Results

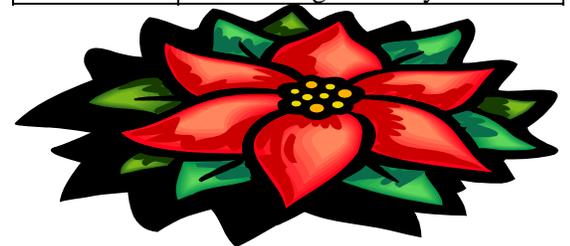
Local Administrative Area 2, that consists of the following townships: Lamotte; Moore; Custer; Bridgehampton; Marlette; Elmer; Watertown; Washington & Sanilac held the election this year for the County Committee.

At the December County Committee meeting the ballots were counted and congratulations to Mark Stone! Mark will serve his final 3 year term on the county committee.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the election process and returned their ballots.

The County Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am.

Jan 4	2008 SURE Application Process begins no deadline announced yet
Jan 18	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 31	Last day to request 2009 crop wool and mohair loans or LDP's
Mar 15	NAP sales closing date for many crops, check with the office for a listing
Mar 31	Final Date to request wheat loans or LDP's
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	Farm Storage/Facility Loan



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.