



# Washtenaw/Wayne County News

**Ann Arbor  
USDA Service Center**

**Washtenaw/Wayne  
County FSA**  
7203 Jackson Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-761-8789 (phone)  
734-662-1686 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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

**County Committee**  
Walter Rochowiak  
Luther Schaible  
Marilyn Gordon  
Robert Breuninger  
Linda Mitchell - Advisor

**County Committee  
meetings**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month

**Staff**

**Program Technicians**  
Lori Maulbetsch  
Lori Terreault  
Laura Whitaker

**Field Reporter**  
Mark Stapish

**County Executive  
Director**  
Linda Rector



## CRP General Signup 39

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.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## Crop Reporting

Certain Programs within FSA, such as DCP/ACRE, SURE, and CRP require producers to report their planted and prevented planted crops to maintain benefits. The deadline to timely file for crop year 2010 has passed, however producer can still meet the **reporting requirement** by late filing a Report of Acreage. There is per farm late filing fee of \$30.00 basic fee, plus \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour. The fee covers the cost of a required field visit to verify physical evidence of the crop and complete a measurement on any split fields. If you have a contract with FSA that requires you to report your cropland acres you must do so or you will not receive your benefits and if you received an advance you will be required to refund those monies.

## ACRE Yield Data Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2009 production certification to comply with ACRE has been extended until September 1, 2010. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2004 through 2008) and the actual farm yield (2009). Participants in the 2009 ACRE program must certify their yields by September 1, 2010 to remain eligible for ACRE benefits.

If you have not certify to your yields please give this office a call to set up an appointment.



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## **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 mint, 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.

## **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup**

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.

Washtenaw and Wayne Counties **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE. Signup is currently ongoing. **The Deadline to make application for 2008 crops is September 30, 2010.**

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## **Farm Loan Programs**

At this time, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has Emergency Loans available farmers who suffered Production losses resulting from frost, freeze, excessive rainfall, flooding, tornadoes, high winds, drought, during the incidence period. Emergency loans are also available for those farmers who experienced a Physical loss as a result of the tornadoes that swept the area in April and May of this year. FSA is still accepting loan applications for all loan programs--Direct Operating, Direct Farm Ownership, Youth loans, Guarantee Farm Ownership and Guarantee Operating. While some of these loan programs may be out of funds at this time, applications are still being processed and added to our waiting lists. For those applicants who meet the Beginning Farmer and/or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer requirements, a limited amount of targeted funding is still available. If you have any questions about any loan program, eligibility requirements, applications or other forms, or need information in general, please contact the Farm Loan staff at (517) 263-7400 and speak with Mike, Becky, Sue or Brenda.

### ***Transition Incentives Program***

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign-up began on Monday, May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements in accordance with a sustainable farm conservation plan.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP.

### ***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

**Special Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Farm Storage Facility Loan-7 Yr.	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan-10 Yr.	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan-15 Yr.	3.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loan	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

To learn more about FSA programs, producers interested in applying and participating should stop by the county office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Bank Account Changes**

Please contact this office to update your direct deposit if you change banks or your account number changes.

<b>August 27, 2010</b>	<b>Final date to apply for CRP General Signup 39</b>
<b>Sept. 1, 2010</b>	<b>Final date to submit production evidence for ACRE</b>
<b>Sept. 5, 2010</b>	<b>Offices closed for the observance of Labor Day</b>
<b>Sept 23, 2010</b>	<b>Final date for asparagus producers to apply for TAA for Farmers</b>
<b>Sept 30, 2010</b>	<b>2011 NAP coverage for small grains, fall mint, fall speltz and forage deadline</b>
<b>Sept. 30, 2010</b>	<b>2008 SURE Application Deadline.</b>
<b>On going</b>	<b>Farm Storage Facility Loan</b>
<b>On going</b>	<b>CRP-State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE)</b>
<b>On going</b>	<b>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</b>
<b>On going</b>	<b>Continuous Conservation Reserve program</b>

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

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