Farm Service Agency

January 2008

Emmet-Charlevoix County News

Emmet-Charlevoix USDA Service Center

Emmet-Charlevoix FSA
2235 E. Mitchell Rd.
Petoskey, MI. 49770
231-347-2133 (phone)
231-347-8170 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Thomas Wieland – Chairperson
Beverly Hinkley – Vice-chairperson
Shane Kilpatrick – Member

The County Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30 a.m.

County Office Staff
Sharon Roberts, Program Technician

County Executive Director
Carmen A. Church,

carmen.church@mi.usda.gov

FSA for Kids
www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids

Disaster Programs Changed

On January 7, 2007 FSA announced that all crops harvested in 2007 year would be included in the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP) however, you still must be covered by crop insurance or a NAP policy to be eligible for the program. The CDP program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Once again, only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP.

March 15th Crop Insurance and NAP Deadline!

The deadline to purchase crop insurance coverage or a NAP policy for spring planted crops is March 15th. With the changes implemented in the current disaster program for 2005 through 2007, it is imperative that you consider your options. With this current disaster program, you MUST have crop insurance or a NAP policy on any crop for which you wish to apply for a disaster payment. Do not let this deadline pass! We do not know what the requirements for future disaster programs will be.

There is no late filing to purchase coverage. To purchase crop insurance coverage, you must contact a private insurance agency. In Presque Isle County the insurable crops are wheat, oats, corn, barley, soybeans, dry beans, and potatoes. In Cheboygan County only corn, oats, barley, and dry beans are insurable. Any other crop planted must have NAP coverage purchased through our office to be eligible for disaster. The cost is $100 per crop, with a maximum of $300 per county.

Committee Election Results

We would like to congratulate Wilson Boss for being elected to the County Committee (COC), representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, which consists of Charlevoix, Norwood, Marion, Eveline, Peaine, St. James, South Arm, Wilson, and Boyne Valley.

We appreciate all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

Latest Farm Bill News

Public information regarding the new Farm Bill is very sketchy. Although speculation is abundant, there is not yet a program to present to producers. With the new bill, any information relating to program payments and provisions will not be available until regulations are written and sign-up is announced. Until then, other program areas directly affected by the farm bill cannot be addressed. Watch for more information in the near future.

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FSA Office
2235 E. Mitchell Rd.
Petoskey, MI. 49770

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Dates To Remember

<u>February 19</u> – President's Day – office closed

<u>March 15</u> – Deadline for NAP application for 2008 vegetable crop and covered Crop Insurance crops

<u>June 30</u> – Deadline to report spring seeded small grain and CRP

<u>July 15</u> – Deadline to report all other crops

<u>Ongoing</u>
Continuous CRP
Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Record Changes

Report *all* farming operation changes to keep your records current. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- **Address-any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.**
- **Direct Deposit-to ensure payments are deposited correctly.**
- **Development-any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.**
- **Reconstitutions-changes that require farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators.**
- **Farm Operating Plan-any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on "person" and/or "actively engaged" determinations.**

Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits.

Livestock Compensation Program

Also included in the Disaster program changes is the inclusion of 2007 grazing losses in the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). To apply for payment, we need to know where all of your pasture acreage for 2007 was. We also need to have your animal numbers as of April, 1 2007.

Eligible livestock include cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, goats, equine, swine, elk, deer, reindeer, and poultry. You may submit TB test data, etc. for calculating your eligible livestock. There are no special requirements to qualify for this program, so let your neighbors who may not participate in our programs know that they may be eligible. Contact the office to set up an appointment to signup.

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