



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOUR FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE



For
INGHAM AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES
Newsletter #2- July 17, 2008

Ingham/Livingston County

FSA Office

8:00 am-4:30 pm

521 N. Okemos St
Mason, MI 48854
517-676-4644 Ext. 2
FAX - 517-676-7011

Farm Loan Program

Dave Hemker, Farm Loan Manager
Phone: 989-723-8263 Ext. 2

Staff

JoAnna Rogers, PT
Gretchen Wasper, PT
Karen Vozarik, PT
Ralph Huss, Field Asst.

Combined County Committee

Vern Elliott
Gary Hoisington
Terrence Butler
Jeff Oesterle
Joan Wright
Jeanine Igl, COC Advisor

County Executive Director

Ronda K. Bozek-Smith

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 25, 2008-** Sign up began for NEW 2008 DCP (Direct Countercyclical Program)
- **August 1, 2008-** Deadline for farmers to submit records for 2008 farm changes and reconstitutions.
- **August 1, 2008-** Deadline to submit Nominating Petitions for Area 5 County Committee Election. Contact the FSA office if you need a nomination form.
- **August 15, 2008 -** Deadline to make an appointment to report all 2008crops.
- **Sept. 16, 2008-** Deadline to pay for NAP or CAT Coverage to meet Disaster program requirements.
- **Sept. 30, 2008-** Deadline to sign 2008 DCP contracts and provide leases.
- **Ongoing Sign Ups -** Farm Storage Facility Loans, Continuous CRP.

*** New Farm Program Information ***

2008 Federal Holidays:

Sept. 1... Labor Day
Oct. 13... Columbus Day
Nov. 11...Veterans Day
Nov. 27...Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25...Christmas Day

The Ingham FSA Office was unable to issue the usual Spring Newsletter because of budget short falls. **Please review this letter carefully for NEW 2008 program deadlines!!!** We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE VISITING THE INGHAM COUNTY FSA OFFICE

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DEADLINE TO REQUEST 2008 FARM CHANGES

- August 1, 2008 -

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office before the August 1 deadline. Let us know of changes if your appointment to report is for a later date. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land contract.

Changes which are required to be reported are:

- Operator changes
- Landowner changes
- Cropland changes
- Land sales
- Land rental agreement changes

If a Reconstitution is necessary the Methods of Division in their order of preference are:

***Estate Method**

The estate method is the division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

***Landowner Method**

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.

***Cropland Method**

The DCP cropland method is the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

***Default Method**

The default method is the 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.

WOOL & MOHAIR LOANS/ LDPS UNSHORN PELT LDPS

The 2008 wool and mohair season is starting and sheep owners must come in **NOW** to sign the CCC-633 before selling the wool or risk losing payments on their 2008 production.



NEW DIRECT AND COUNTERCYCLICAL PROGRAM

DCP will continue for 2008-2012

Sept. 30, 2008 is deadline to enroll farms.

If you were in our office before May 25, 2008 to report crops and did not sign up in the DCP, please contact us to make an appointment to enroll your farms in the DCP before Sept. 30, 2008.

2008 Program Change:

The 2008 Farm Bill provides that producers on farms with DCP base acres that total 10.0 acres or less will not receive a direct, counter-cyclical, or average crop revenue election program payment, unless the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or a limited resource farmer or rancher.

Call for information on what is needed to meet this designation.

The new program, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) will be in effect for 2009-12, more information will be provided as we get it from DC.

CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

-August 15, 2008-

It goes by different names - crop report, acreage report, crop certification, but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

Every year we are forced to charge producers to report their crops because they do not come in until after the crop reporting deadlines. **The final date for reports to be considered on time for 2008 crop year, only is:**

**Aug 15 Fall Seeded Small Grains (Wheat)
Spring Seeded Crops and
Conservation Reserve acres**

Calling the office for an appointment before this date will place you on a register and avoid late reporting fees.

Producers are required to report their crops to the FSA office for many reasons, some of the most important are:

- Eligibility for Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments
- Compliance in the Conservation Reserve Program

**JOIN THE FUTURE: GET ON-LINE
WITH A USDA WEB ACCOUNT**

Many FSA program functions are now available on the web such as DCP sign-up and your farm payment records and many more are on the way. Log on and follow the directions for Level II access.

www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html.

**2005-2007 CROP DISASTER
PROGRAM**

If you had crop insurance coverage or Non Insured Assistance coverage and you suffered production losses of at least 35 percent in 2005-2007 you may be eligible for assistance.

For 2008 only, producers who do not meet this requirement may have this provision waived if they pay a fee in the amount applicable to the NAP fee or Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan fee no later than September 16, 2008.

You must come into the FSA office and enroll in CDP to receive these benefits.

No sign-up deadline has been established yet, but please call to set-up an appointment to sign-up today. If a deadline is announced we may not have time to notify you so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity now.

**NON INSURED ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year.

FSA requires that any production losses be reported within 15 days of the apparent loss so that field visits can be performed if necessary. Late report of losses could cost you the payments on participating crops.

!!!!!! STOP !!!!!!

Sod Buster/Swamp buster provisions are still in effect for the new DCP.

Before you clear trees and brush, put in new tile, replace old tile or clean a ditch come in to the FSA Office to file a new AD-1026 form. This is for your protection and could help avoid future problems!!!!

The FSA office will refer your plans to NRCS for review. Julius Pigott, the District Conservationist, will work with you to meet the FSA regulations.

Loss of your FSA program payments can be avoided with one quick visit to your FSA Office!

NEW MAPS MEAN BETTER RECORDS

The Ingham and Livingston County Office is among the first in the State of Michigan to bring you into the computer age with our new digital maps. The Staff has worked very hard to make it possible for you to enroll in the 2008 Farm Programs with these new, more correct maps and farms records. We have tried to preserve every acre of cropland that is visible on the 2005 photography and to save every acre of base that we can. Sometimes, due to encroaching trees or non-agricultural uses, cropland acres have fallen below the historical bases. When this happens, the farm records must be adjusted. If you receive a letter with forms attached, telling you that this was necessary on your farm, please sign the enclosed forms and return them to our office immediately. *We must adjust the bases before the farm can be enrolled in the DCP Farm Program and the deadline is September 30, 2008!!!! As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact us immediately and we will be happy to go over the changes with you.*

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
INGHAM/LIVINGSTON COUNTY FSA OFFICE
521 N. OKEMOS ST.
MASON, MI 48854-1224

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If you haven't already done so, DON'T DELAY!
Make an appointment to sign your 2008 DCP Contract TODAY!

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign FSA and CCC documents on each others' behalf unless an exclusion is requested.

LOW INTEREST LOANS THRU FSA

In 2008, Ingham and Livingston Counties were given a Presidential designation as Disaster for frost freeze and excess rain. Dave Hemker, Farm Loan Manager for both counties, stated that to be eligible for a loan the operation must show a 30% loss in one crop. If interested, be sure you contact Dave Hemker at the Shiawassee office for details. The phone number is (989) 723-8263 ext 2.

Direct Deposit Changes

Please report all bank account number and bank changes to the FSA Office to avoid payment delays on program payments made through direct deposit.

Foreign Investment Disclosure

Any foreign person who acquires, holds or transfers any interest (other than security) in agricultural land must report to the Secretary of Agriculture through the local FSA Office. **An FSA-153 form must be submitted no later than 90 days after the change.** Failure to report could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the property's fair market value.