



# **Isabella County News**

**Isabella County  
USDA Service  
Center**

Isabella County FSA  
5979 E Broadway Rd  
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-772-5927 (phone)  
989-773-0480 (fax)

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

**County Committee**  
Jim Judge, Jr., Chair  
Joyce Conners  
Bill Brewer

**Program Technicians**  
Becky Dickman  
Pat Miller  
Colleen Schuldt  
Connie Moegenborg  
Kim Gibson-Leonard

**Farm Loan Trainees**  
Crystal Hepker  
Jon LaPorte

**Farm Loan Officer**  
Betty Garrett

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Jerry Spickerman

**County Executive  
Director**  
Bob Thompson

**County Committee  
Meetings**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each  
month

**Website**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **Meeting Notice 2005-2007 Disaster Programs**

On Wednesday, **March 5, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.** in Room 320 of the Isabella County Building a public information meeting will be held to discuss 2005-2007 FSA Disaster programs.

Provisions of the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP); the 2007 Emergency Loan Program and the 2007 Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) will be highlighted.

While we currently have NO information on what other programs, annual or otherwise, might be offered as a result of a new Farm Bill, should information become available, we will include it in our discussion.

In any case, if you had crops covered by crop insurance in 2005, 2006 or 2007 and suffered a loss OR had a loss of pasture during 2007 OR are interested in exploring low interest financing, please try to attend.

### **2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

**Note: Contrary to previously published information, legislation has changed and now includes ALL 2007 crops.**

Weather conditions that caused production losses to any crop planted, or prevented from being planted, during 2005, 2006 or 2007 may be eligible:

- 1) If the crop was covered by a Federal Crop Insurance policy (sold by a private agent) or a NAP policy (sold by FSA) for the year the loss occurred,
- and**

- 2) If crop production losses exceeded 35% or crop quality losses exceeded 25%

Because benefits are only allowed for 1 year, producers are encouraged to apply for any or all years in which the requirements are met before deciding which they feel is the most advantageous.

Individual crop payments will be capped at 95% of expected return and an \$80,000 per "person" payment limit will apply.

Federal Crop Insurance policy loss records, where applicable, have been received by FSA for producers who filed claims in 2005 and 2006. Loss claims for 2007 crops continue to be received. In most cases, FSA will use these records to calculate your benefit.

Where group insurance policies like GRIP, GRP, AGR or CAT are involved, producers may have qualifying production or quality losses as individuals and could be eligible for CDP, even though their insurance policy did not pay an indemnity. If so, FSA will need verifiable and/or reliable production records.

If you are interested in the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program, please call the FSA office at 772-5927 to make an appointment.

### **Emergency Loans Available for 2007 Disaster Conditions**

Isabella County has been designated a disaster county due to the following 2007 conditions:

- 1) Drought that occurred April 1, 2007 and continuing. Deadline for application is July 7, 2008.
- 2) Frost, freeze events that occurred April 4, 2007 through June 13, 2007. Deadline for application is July 14, 2008.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

FSA is now mailing county newsletters from a central site in Lansing.

If you receive multiple newsletters at the same address – or – are not interested in the material provided,

**PLEASE**

Let FSA know so that the necessary corrections can be made to future mailings

If you know someone who would benefit from this newsletter, please have them contact FSA.

- 3) Severe physical losses from tornadoes, hail and high winds that occurred July 3, 2007 through August 29, 2007. Deadline for application is June 5, 2008.
- 4) Tornadoes, hail, excessive rain, and high winds that occurred May 15, 2007 through September 11, 2007. Application deadline is July 21, 2008.

These designations make qualifying family size farm operations eligible for low interest Emergency Loans (presently the interest rate is 3.75%). Emergency Loans help cover production and physical losses caused by the disaster conditions.

Producers having questions are encouraged to contact Jerry Spickerman, Farm Loan Manager, or Betty Garrett, Farm Loan Officer at 989-772-5927 ext. 2.

Dates to Remember	
Continues	2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program Signup – call FSA at 772-5927 for appointment
February 18	President’s Day Holiday USDA Offices closed
<b>March 5</b>	2005-2007 Disaster Programs meeting <b>10:00 A.M.</b> Room 320 Isabella County Building
March 15	Crop Insurance sales deadline (sold through private agents)  Noninsured crop sales deadline (sold through FSA)
March 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for Wheat or Oats.

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