



LENAWEE FSA News

Lenawee County USDA

Service Center

Lenawee County FSA
1100 Sutton RD
Adrian MI 49221 7377

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Hours

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Jeffrey Ehlert, Chairperson
Alan Gould
Michael Feight

FSA INFO WEBSITE
www.fsa.usda.gov

Staff

Constance Reid Guffey
County Executive Director

Phone Extension 114

Farm Program Section:

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Farm Loan Section:

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Your 2008 County Committee

Michael Feight was elected to the County Committee. Alternates are David Squires and Detra Halliwill. Thank you to all who participated in the election process. At the first meeting of the year held on January 3, 2008, Jeff Ehlert was selected as Chairperson, Alan Gould as Vice Chairperson and Michael Feight as Regular Member. New for 2008, the Michigan State FSA Committee has appointed Bonnie Hunt as a County Committee Advisor to attend meetings and represent women and other under-represented groups. This is a one year appointment. Groups are encouraged to nominate a County Committee Advisor annually, no later than February first.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency provides credit to agricultural producers unable to secure credit from commercial lending sources. Contact Michael Jordon, Farm Loan Manager.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO PURCHASED CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURABLE CROP COVERAGE (NAP)



CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Until recently the 2007 crop had to have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007, to qualify.

A recent change makes all 2007 crops eligible as long as the crop was covered by multi-peril crop insurance or NAP.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Acreage prevented from being planted due to weather events is also eligible. We have received downloaded information for the producers with insured crops in 2005, 2006 and 2007. If you had a loss on a crop covered by multi-peril crop insurance, but did not apply for an indemnity with your agent, bring in your production evidence and we will calculate any benefit due under the CDP program. The highest loss year will be paid.

NON-INSURABLE CROP LOSS COVERAGE IS AVAILABLE

NAP Deadline Approaches

Coverage similar to that available on insurable crops is available for non-insurable crops through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

Eligible producers are those who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50% of expected production, based on your approved yield and reported acreage. See us for NAP coverage details soon. The deadline is March 15, 2008 for most spring planted crops. The crops and varieties covered must be on the CCC-471 application and the fee must be paid by that date. The maximum charge is \$300 per producer, per county, no matter how many crops or varieties are grown. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the service fees. Conservation compliance requirements must be followed.

The payment limitation is \$100,000 per person for NAP. The gross revenue limitation of \$2 million per person applies.

NAP coverage begins the later of 30 calendar days after the application is filed; or the date the crop is planted (not to exceed the final planting date).

NAP coverage ends the earlier of the date harvest is complete; the normal harvest date; abandonment of the crop or the total destruction of the crop.

Acreage reports must be filed by July 15, 2008 and show type, location, planting date, number of acres, etc.

Notice of loss must be made within 15 days of weather damage or of the damage being apparent. (For prevented planting, it is 15 days from the final planting date set for the crop.

Loss adjustment appraisals must be requested if: any of the crop will not be harvested or for hand harvested crops to document any production left in the field after harvest is complete.

Crop evidence must not be destroyed prior to filing a Notice of Loss and requesting an appraisal of the crop.

Production records provided must represent a true and complete record for the unit. If you will not have acceptable sales documents showing 100% of the production, we will give you guidance on the types of production evidence the County Committee would find reliable and acceptable, such as a daily harvest ledger .

**COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE!
*Call and get details from Ann Squires.***

**ALREADY HAVE A COMMODITY LOAN?
Always take the time to view the condition of the grain under loan throughout the year, especially during periods of humid air and fluctuating temperatures.**

Please do not forget that grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a loan violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties. Loans are subject to spot checks. Shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties. The loss of future loan eligibility may apply.

Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR HUSBANDS AND WIVES:

A husband and wife can sign on behalf of each other for most FSA programs in which either has an interest.

This does not include loan documents. You must have a Power of Attorney form on file in order to sign loan documents on behalf of your spouse.

AG CENSUS TIME

It's that time once again for the Agricultural Census, which is conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics.

Brochures are available in both English and Spanish.

Completed forms were due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online.

REPORT DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES:

If you change your financial institution or the account in which you would like your payments deposited, please report the change to this office immediately. We don't want your payments delayed by being sent to an account that is no longer valid.

Foreign Landowners Reporting Requirement

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural 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. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

CRP participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments, financial incentives and a cost share payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing the conservation practices.

Land in the River Raisin/ Western Lake Erie Basin Watersheds is eligible for additional benefits through the enhanced version of this program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or CREP (see related article below). To be eligible, land had to have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four of

the years 1996-2001. Land in CRP in those years, which is no longer under contract, or land seeded to hay in one of those years is also eligible. To be eligible, the land must be owned for 12 months (some exceptions apply). The CRP program protects millions of acres of topsoil from erosion. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, it also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving (vegetative) covers, greatly increasing wildlife populations in many parts of the country. The continuous conservation reserve program is available throughout the whole county. Eligibility criteria is similar to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), however the additional funding issued through the Michigan Department of Agriculture is not available under this program. This program still provides up to an annual payment of 120 percent of your soil rental rate, up to 50 percent cost share to establish the conservation practice and an additional 40 percent of the 50 percent cost share paid (Practice Incentive Payment), an annual maintenance payment, as well as several other lucrative financial incentives (Note: Soil Rental Rates were recently increased for most Michigan Counties)



CREP Sign-Up Continues

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program remains in effect for most of Lenawee County under the River Raisin/Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed areas designation. Participants enroll environmentally sensitive acreage along ditches, stream banks and wetland areas by establishing buffers and/or filter strips.

Whole and partial field wetland restorations are also eligible along with field windbreaks. Participants receive enhanced cost share reimbursement (50 percent Federal and 50 percent State of Michigan) up to set rates. Enhanced annual rental payments along with signing incentive payments and practice incentive payments are also authorized under this program.

A deadline for this program has not been announced. However, an acreage limitation does apply. If you are interested in this program, please contact your local FSA office to begin the process. Lauren Lindemann and Nathan McNett, CREP Technicians will also be involved in the sign-up process.

Temporary
Return Service Requested

WOOL AND MOHAIR



The final date to request a loan or LDP on wool or mohair harvested in 2007, is January 31, 2008. Since the market price has been below the loan rate there has been a loan deficiency payment in effect.

The 2008 wool and mohair season has started. Sheep owners must come in to sign a CCC-

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY FSA:

In order for us to serve you better, please contact our office with any record changes in your farming operation such as:

Development – any new parcels of land removed for houses needs to be reported.

Owner/Operator – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share agreements.

Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or divisions due to sale of land or change in operators should be reported as soon as possible.

Farm Operating Plan – Any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “person” and/or “actively engaged” determinations.

Update AD-1026 – when you pick up any new acreage, or plan to clear, drain, or put in tile on existing cropland. Making these changes without prior approval by NRCS can result in loss of USDA program benefits.

Address – Any contact information change should be updated for notification purposes.

Direct Deposit – If you have changed an accounts or bank, updates are needed to ensure payments are deposited correctly and in a timely manor.

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, audiotope, 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.