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**Mecosta County
USDA Service
Center**

18260 Northland Dr
Big Rapids, MI. 49307-9272
Telephone 231-796-2659 Ext. 2

County Committee

Mike Hopkins – Chairperson
John Orr – V. Chairperson
Gerald Mondrella – Member
Beth Storey – Advisor

Office Personnel

Sherry Adams-Program Technician
Towna Aris-Program Technician
Shelley Lobert-Program Technician
Heather Sellers (Intermittent)
Larry Sheridan (Farm Loan Officer)

Farm Loan Manager

Rick Dean

County Executive Director

Travis Murray

Field Reporter

Don Foos

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday
Closed All Federal Holidays

August 2008

FINAL DEADLINES and DATES to REMEMBER

August 6th, 13th, 19th Open discussions on new Disaster programs @ 6pm, Mecosta USDA Service Center (Conference Room)

***August 1, 2008** – Nominations Deadline for Farm Service Agency County Committee Member who will represent Local Administrative Area #3 (Martiny, Sheridan, Wheatland, Hinton, Millbrook)

***August 12, 2008** – Mecosta County Committee Meeting

***August 15, 2008 -Producers must certify all crops**

***September 1, 2008** –Office closed for Labor Day

***September 16, 2008** – Deadline to purchase “buy-in fee” for 2008 SURE and LFP

***September 30, 2008** – DCP 2008 signup deadline

NEW DISASTER PROGRAMS, HUGE CHANGES (Please Read!)

The new Farm Bill has provided continuous disaster programs which are:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program (*Crop disaster*)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP),
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

To be eligible to participate in the SURE and/or LFP programs for **2008**, the producer must have bought crop insurance **for all crops** which are insurable and NAP coverage **for all crops** which are not insurable by crop insurance, including pasture. If the producer has not bought crop insurance or NAP coverage for all crops for 2008, **the producer can still be eligible. To be eligible, the producer can purchase a “buy-in fee” through the FSA office for each insurable crop and for each non-insurable crop.** Each “buy-in fee” costs \$100. The deadline to purchase the “buy-in fees” is September 16, 2008.

To be eligible to participate in the SURE and/or LFP programs for **2009**, the producer must have bought crop insurance **for all crops** which are insurable and NAP coverage **for all crops** which are not insurable by crop insurance, including pasture. The deadline to purchase crop insurance for crop year 2009 is fast approaching for some crops such as wheat, hay, and other fall seeded crops. We encourage you to purchase NAP coverage through the FSA office as soon as possible. NAP coverage takes affect 30 days after signing up for the policy. The cost to purchase NAP for 2009 is \$250.00 per crop, maximum of \$750.00 per county, \$1875.00 per producer for all counties.

Example 1: Mecosta County Producer Gene Sickels buys crop insurance for his corn and soybeans for 2009 but he does not buy NAP coverage for his pasture ground for 2009.

Mr. Sickels would not be eligible to participate in any of the crop disaster programs through FSA, even if Mecosta County were eligible for disaster 2009 and Mr Sickels had an eligible loss in corn and soybeans.

Mecosta County FSA Office
18260 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307



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Please Come in and Tell us what You have Planted

If you have not already come into our office and certified what is planted in each of your fields, it's that time of year again. If you are in DCP, CRP, CREP, or have the potential for an LDP/Loan for 2008, you must come in and certify each field on your farm to get your payments. This is the exact same process we went through last year. **The deadline to certify all crops has been extended this year until August 15, 2008.** Planting dates will be required. Please make an appointment at the Mecosta County FSA office as soon as possible. **Late fees** will be charged after the **August 15th deadline** on a per FSA farm basis.

DCP SIGNUP

Signup is underway for the 2008 DCP program. Producers can visit their local FSA office or sign-up online. They can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access.

For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Advance payments will be issued as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

We encourage you to sign up for DCP by August 15, 2008 (deadline to certify your crops on all your cropland without penalty). Final Date to Sign-up is September 30th, 2008. Please contact the local FSA office for details. Call the office today and make an appointment to sign-up. Producers with base acreage 10 acres or less may not be eligible to receive payment in the DCP program.

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