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Midland FSA
954 E Isabella Rd
Midland, MI 48640

**Midland County
FSA**
954 E Isabella Rd.
Midland, MI 48640
(989) 832-3651
(989) 832-4089 fax

Midland Staff
Cheryl Rathbun
Amy Schuhart

Midland County Committee
Chairman – Scott Maxwell
Vice Chairman – Charles McCune
Member – Jack Terwillegar
Advisor – Erna Varner
Executive Director Dave Claerhout

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FSA News

Midland County

January 2008

Disaster Programs Changed!

On January 7th 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 percent to be eligible for CDP. Also included in the disaster assistance, is the Livestock Compensation Program, which compensates producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters for the 2007 crop year. **Please contact us for an appointment to signup.**

DCP Sign Up?

The DCP program was part of the 2002 Farm Bill which expired in 2007. We are patiently waiting for Congress to pass the 2008 Farm Bill which hopefully will contain a commodity program similar to DCP.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Scott Maxwell! Scott was elected to represent farmers from Warren, Jerome, Edenville, Lincoln, Hope, and Mills townships on the county committee. Scott was elected to his second term as a County Committee member.

Bank Account Changes

FSA payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the county office staff if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Trusts & Limited Liability Company's

Is land you own recorded at the Register of Deeds office as a Trust or LLC? Trusts and/or LLCs' are considered separate and distinct entities and **must** be reported when completing eligibility forms for farm programs. Ownership records listed at FSA **must** match that of which is listed on your deed to be eligible to participate in Farm Programs.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Attention Producers, Landowners

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you

are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?

- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drain to make cropping easier?
Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area
- of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits

CREP Sign up

We continue to accept applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The CREP is designed to reduce water and wind erosion, and to provide much needed wildlife habitat on cropland. Participants receive increased annual rental payments, cost-sharing (100% not-to-exceed set rates) and other financial incentives. Producers would receive annual per acre payments for 15 years.

Eligible land must have been cropped 4 out of the 6 years from 1996 – 2001, or in a legume rotation and cropped 1 year out of the last 8, or be considered marginal pastureland.

Eligible CREP practices are filterstrips, field windbreaks, and/or wetland restorations.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The application sales closing deadline for many annual 2008 spring seeded crops is March 15th. Fall seeded crops such as winter wheat and forage crops have a sales closing date of September 30th. Michigan fruit and berry crops have a sales closing date of November 20th. Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Livestock Compensation Program

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2007, thru December 31st. who suffered losses due to drought.

Eligible livestock under LCP must have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period;

have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have either owned or cash-leased livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period(s); suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event(s) during the applicable disaster period(s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

Dates to Remember	
January 21	Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.
February 18	Office Closed Presidents Day
March 15	Deadline to purchase NAP for spring seeded crops Deadline to purchase crop insurance
June 30	Deadline to report spring seeded small grain and CRP
July 15	Deadline to report all other crops
Continuous	Continuous CRP and CREP

