



March 2008

Montcalm County News

Montcalm County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Web Site
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Eugene Rentschler
Ned Welder
Judy Johnston

County Committee Advisor
Mary Waldron

Staff
Janice McCallister
Becky Proctor
Pam Brooks
Valerie Prosser

Field Reporter
Ken Carr

Farm Loan Manager
John Anton

County Executive Director
Wayne Stickler

New FSA County Committee Advisor

Montcalm FSA welcomes Mary Waldron as the new county committee advisor. Mary was nominated and selected to replace Phyllis Larson whom previously filled the position, but due to a term limit had to step down. Our office thanks Phyllis for her years of dedicated service to the Montcalm County FSA.

Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III

Producers must have produced and marketed milk in the United States any time during the period of Jan. 2, 2005, through Dec. 30, 2007; Adequate proof of production history must be based on milk marketing statements obtained from the dairy operation's milk handler or marketing cooperative.

- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to a declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area;
- Producers must provide proof of the average number of cows in the dairy herd and annual milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the years of the base period (2003 and 2004 calendar years) and applicable disaster year that corresponds with the applicable

natural disaster declaration or other period to determine the total pounds of eligible losses that will be used for payment.

FSA will base loss calculations on comparing the expected base annual production and the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year. FSA may adjust calculations when losses are not caused by the disaster. FSA may reject DDAP-III applications if a producer does not provide adequate proof of production for the periods.

(The application deadline is May 5, 2008)

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM 2005 - 2007

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible farmers can sign-up for the **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** if they 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.

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.

COC ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Ned Welder for being re-elected to the Montcalm County FSA Committee as representative of LAA-3. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.





Montcalm County FSA
77 South State St.
Stanton MI 48888-9470

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Dates to Remember

Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
May 5, 2008	Deadline to sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III
May 26, 2008	Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 30, 2008	Deadline to report fall seeded crops

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

New Computer Generated Maps

The Montcalm FSA office is currently creating a new set of computer-generated maps for all farms containing **cropland acres**. You may have received 1 or more maps and wondered why you have not received all of your farm maps? The answer is: our office is printing these maps in Farm number order by **Tract** and mailing a copy to the operator and landowner in 1 or 2 large mailings per week. The projected completion date is several months away and will be effective for crop year 2009 and after. In the process, we review all field boundary lines on aerial imagery taken in the 1990's that has been recorded in the computer mapping system.

These maps will replace old paper maps used for FSA business. Computer based mapping will help us provide higher quality maps and more accurate acreage determinations.

Measurement Service Fee Change

The state has adopted a new version of measurement fees from national FSA procedure. This policy will more accurately reflect the costs incurred by the agency for services such as measuring fields and grain bins. A basic farm visit fee will now be \$30 plus \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. Fees will include actual time spent traveling, measuring, and calculating. There will be a charge for a minimum of one hour. The minimum measurement service fee will now be \$46.00.