November 2008

Presque Isle-Cheboygan County News

Presque Isle-Cheboygan USDA Service Center

Presque Isle-Cheboygan FSA
4050 Michigan Ave.
Onaway, MI. 49765
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Edward Reimann-Chairperson
Clifford Tollini-Vice Chairperson
Sonja Kuffel-Member
Wayne Schalk-Member
Thomas Woiderski-Member

The County Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month starting at 10:30 a.m.

County Office Staff
Robin Grainger, Program Technician

Gale Dunn, Program Technician

County Executive Director
Carmen A. Church,

carmen.church@mi.usda.gov

FSA for Kids
www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Our County Committee is composed of five members, each serving a 3-year term. One or two members are up for election annually.

This year we will be electing one new member to the COC. The nominees from LAA #1 (Mackinaw, Hebron, Munro, Beaugrand, Inverness, Benton, Aloha, and Grant) are Beth Ann Buhr and Thomas Woiderski.

Owners and operators of farming operations along with the spouse of farm owners are eligible to vote as long as the spouse is listed on the deed. If you farm in any of the named townships and would like to participate in the election, please contact the office for a ballot.

Ballots were mailed on November 3, 2008 and must be returned to the FSA office or postmarked by **December 1, 2008** in order to be counted. Counting will take place at 10:30 am on December 3rd in the county office.

Please vote in this very important election, every vote counts!

DEADLINE To Purchase 2009 NAP Coverage

December 1, 2008 is the deadline to purchase 2009 NAP coverage on:

* Forage/hay crops
* fall seeded small grains; wheat, rye, & spetlz
* honey
* maple sap
* Christmas Trees
* fruit crops
* asparagus
* grazing lands

NAP policies are available on any crop that cannot be covered under a crop insurance policy.

The service fee for 2009 coverage is $250.00 per crop, maximum $750.00 per county & $1875.00 per producer for all counties.

A NAP policy must also be purchased on all grazing land to be eligible for disaster payments in the event of grazing loss. The deadline to purchase a grazing policy has also been extended to December 1, 2008.

Keep in mind that you must have all of your crops covered under a NAP and/or Crop Insurance Policy to be eligible for Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program Benefits.

Dates To Remember

<u>Ongoing</u>
Continuous CRP, Farm Storage Facility Loans

November 26 – Deadline for signing 10 base acre or less contracts for 2008 DCP.

November 27 – Office closed for Thanksgiving

December 1 - Deadline to purchase 2009 NAP coverage for Alfalfa, Mixed Forage, Pasture, Rye, and fruit crops.

December 25 – Office closed for Christmas.

January 1 – Office closed for New Years.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes ACRE program payments. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, producers will have the option to participate in a state-level revenue protection program instead of the counter-cyclical program.

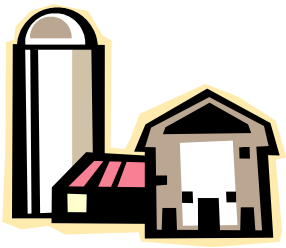
In crop years 2009 through 2012, producers who make an irrevocable election to receive ACRE Program payments will:

1. Not receive counter-cyclical payments on enrolled farms.

2. Be subject to a 20 percent reduction in direct payments for all covered commodities on enrolled farms.

3. Be subject to a 30 percent reduction in marketing assistance loan rates for all covered commodities on enrolled farms.

Payments are triggered if actual state per acre revenue is less than the guarantee and if a producer suffers an actual revenue loss for the crop on the farm. Then the producer will receive an ACRE payment equal to the difference between the state per-acre revenue guarantee and the state actual revenue calculation paid on 83.3 percent (85 percent for 2012) of the acres planted to the covered commodity on the farm, not to exceed the base acres.



Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!!! The 2008 Farm Bill appropriated funds for the following Supplemental Disaster Programs:

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). For producers to be eligible they must purchase at least the CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops on **all crops in all counties**.

Many have purchased "Buy In" and will be eligible for 2008. Now is the time to ensure eligibility for 2009. 1st thing to do is to visit your insurance agent and get insurance for all of your "Insurable" crops. Then contact FSA to purchase coverage on your "Non-insurable" crops with a "NAP" policy. Deadlines to purchase 2009 NAP coverage on fall seeded or perennial crops have been extended to Dec. 1, 2008. *****New rules allow crops of non-economic significance (less than 10% of total crop value) to have the requirement to purchase insurance waived. These crops would not be covered by SURE. There are also special provisions for producers that are beginning farmers, limited resource, or socially disadvantaged. Please note: **ALL** crops in **ALL** counties must be covered or waived to qualify for 2009 assistance.

For a SURE Calculator go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing under the *Tools* section.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the FSA Office in person or by phone.

Farm Record Changes

If you have purchased or sold land, leased additional land or changed tenants, please notify the FSA office so farm records may be updated.

For Land Purchases:

- **A copy of the deed is required**
- **All landowners must furnish their tax ID # if they are enrolling in a program.**

Production Records

It is important and your responsibility to maintain and provide acceptable production records for eligibility in many of our programs such as SURE, ACRE, and NAP that you.

Ideal records would be verifiable by CCC through an independent source, be dated, show disposition with quantity and price, and be crop specific.

If verifiable records are not available, reliable records may be acceptable.

Pick records, register tapes, and ledgers of income are some examples of reliable records.

You should also provide a clear and concise summary of your production records and make sure it notes the unit of measure being used.

PAYMENT CENTRALIZATION

After December 4, 2008, all program payment requests will be routed to the National Payment Service for processing. Local Farm Service Agency offices will no longer be able to issue checks out of the local office.

If a producer does not have an account for direct deposit, any checks issued through the National Payment Service may take up to two weeks.

FSA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Payment Limitation and Eligibility

For 2008 programs, all current rules and procedures are applicable, however, in 2009, average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limits have changed.

Restrictions are as follows:

• Non Farm AGI greater than $500,000 – not eligible for price support or DCP

• Farm AGI greater than $750,000 – not eligible for direct payments for DCP

• If Non Farm AGI is greater than $1 million - not eligible for conservation programs unless 66.66% is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations

Payment Limitation Controls will be established in 2009 which will credit individuals and entities with both the amount of payments they receive directly and also the amount they are considered to have received indirectly by holding an interest in an entity receiving payment.

New forms will be required to be completed for all producers' eligibility.

Presque Isle-Cheboygan
FSA Office
4050 Michigan Ave.
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Foreign Buyers Notification

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. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the sales closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

Tiling or Clearing Land

Don't forget the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions. Bringing new land into production by **clearing trees, improving drainage by tiling, and dredging are potential violations of the HEL/WC rules**.

Before you begin any land conversion project, please come into the county office to file form AD-1026.

Natural Resources Conservation Service will make an evaluation of your land to determine how to manage the wet areas of your land most efficiently.

Checking ahead of time will help keep you eligible for USDA benefits.

2008 WOOL/MOHAIR/UNSHORN PELTS

The final loan availability date to request a marketing assistance loan or LDP for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts is January 31, 2009.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Due to changes in the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions and programs being offered by the USDA, new power of attorney (POA) forms may need to be completed. If you are acting as a POA, please contact the office to determine if a new form is required.

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, audiotape, 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.