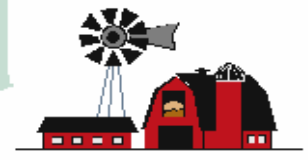




Ties to the Land



Your Resource Partners in Kenosha and Racine Counties:

Racine County Land Conservation Division
University of Wisconsin Extension

Farm Service Agency Office

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Volume 1, Issue 2

January, 2007

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ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS ARE SLOWING DOWN 2007 PAYMENTS

All FSA offices are required to conduct an in-depth review of all files to ensure that payments are being properly made. The main focus of the review is the documentation used to determine producer eligibility.

It would be a good idea to call and make an appointment before coming into the office to sign up for programs so that the forms required can be prepared in advance.

We want to point out that many of you are used to getting any payments due in a very short time period sometimes within 48 hours. This will not be happening as soon as that until this entire review is completed.

CHANGES IN RULES FOR RECEIVING PAYMENTS FOR 2007 DCP

We want to also point out that there are some rule changes for signup this year.

#1 – There are changes in owner's signature requirements for 2007. According to program policy – in order to be eligible to receive program payments for DCP all operators **MUST** have an owner signature on file here in the County Office. This could be in the form of a Cash Lease, a Landlord Statement, or a simple note signed and dated by the owner stating that the operator will be running his/her land. **REMEMBER THIS IS A RULE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS SO PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

#2 – The advance payment that will be paid out after the owner statements have been received, signup completed and payment requested would be 22% of the amount due with the balance being paid in October, 2007. This is a big change from previous years. Many of you may have received 50% in July in previous years. Remember due to changes made by Congress your payment will only be 22%, with the remaining 78% coming in October.

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR SOME GOOD TOOLS

The USDA Customer Statement is a special focus of the eGovernment initiatives that have been announced that “Brings to the farmer unprecedented access to their business activities with USDA 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.”

The USDA Customer Statement combines a wide range of information on your USDA Services and program activity in a single report available online through the Web. You can access the secure, confidential report online, any place, any time. You are able to print or view the report.

The Customer Statement contains private information about your business with USDA. To protect you, your identity must be verified at a local USDA Service Center before the account can be activated.

Steps to follow are:

1 – Use the internet to obtain a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. From your internet browser go to the USDA eAuthentication site at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html>

Follow the steps described to request a Level 2 Account. Fill out the online registration form, create a user ID and password and respond to the confirmation email the system sends to you.

2 - Activation Process – take your official identification such as drivers license, etc to the local FSA Office. Ask an employee to verify your identity and activate your account and to verify that you are located in the SCIMS data base.

3 - Use your Internet Browser to locate the Customer Statement site:

<http://CustomerStatement.usda.gov>

Click on the login button on the homepage menu bar.

Enter your USDA eAuthentication level 2 Account user ID and password on the USDA security login screen.

On your first visit to the Customer Statement, you will be assigned a unique USDA ID and a default profile for your Customer Statement.

Now you can navigate through your Customer Statement. To protect your identity, the Customer Statement does not show your Social Security Number or Taxpayer ID. Instead your information is linked to your USDA ID. Remember your USDA ID was created the first time you login.

What more can I do once I have been activated?

You would be able to sign up for the DCP annual program on line or apply for any Loan Deficiency Payment that could be available, in the future.

You may get into the Benefits Summary and reports will show your year to date payments that you have received.

You may get into your Contact Summary which contains your customer information from the Database.

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE FOR SPRING CROPS

The application closing date to sign up for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on most spring seeded crops is March 15, 2007.

NAP covers losses due to damaging weather conditions. The program covers losses in excess of a 50% loss of normal yields or the farms yield calculated using actual production history. NAP begins 30 days after your application is filed and a \$100 administrative fee per crop has been paid. Administrative fees are not refundable. NAP fees can not exceed \$300 per county.

As a reminder, NAP coverage is only available for crops where insurance coverage is not available under Federal Crop Insurance policies provided by private insurance agents throughout the state.

Producers interested in obtaining NAP on their 2007 spring seeded non-insurable crop acreage, should visit their local USDA Service Center before March 15, 2007 to complete an application for their 2007 acres.

If you currently have NAP coverage or are interested in coverage, you need to keep accurate records of your production, report acreage of the crops to FSA annually, and promptly notify FSA when ever losses occur. A report of the actual yield is key in maintaining a yield that reflects their capability.

This deadline date also applies to persons who have a policy that expires on March 15th and want to renew their coverage for 2007.

Note: If you are a producer who received benefits under the Crop Disaster Program, see paragraph two of the Crop Insurance Requirements article in this newsletter.

LDPs AND 9-MONTH COMMODITY LOANS

FSA wants to remind you that the deadline to apply for loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts, wool and mohair produced in calendar year 2006 is January 31, 2007.

The deadline to put 2006 crop wheat, small grains, many minor oilseeds, and honey under a 9-month loan or apply for a LDP is March 31, 2007. And, the last day to request a 9-month loan or LDP on your 2006 corn or soybean crops is May 31, 2007. There are currently no LDPs available because the county posted prices on these crops is above the county loan rates. Therefore, producers may also obtain a marketing assistance loan on commodity crops which provides short term operating funds at a comparably low interest rate. The interest rate for November, 2006 was 6%. Loan rates are:

2006 Crop	Per Bushel Rate
Corn	\$1.93
Soybeans	\$5.05
Wheat/Racine	\$2.57
Wheat/Kenosha	\$2.62
Oats	\$1.38
Barley	\$1.64

Repayment is usually made at the loan rate plus interest. However, if daily prices drop below the loan rate for the commodity crop any time throughout the 9-month loan period, the repayments may be made at the lower posted county price **without** interest, which is considered a market gain. All producers are eligible to apply to put their stored crops under loan or request a LDP.

REPORT BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

All Farm Service Agency payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office 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.

Also, be aware that actual deposits of FSA benefits/payments could take from 2-3 days to be deposited into your bank accounts although it shows up in Financial Inquiries as being posted. This delay is due to the processing time required by our processing center in Kansas City, Missouri.

FARM DIVISION OPTIONS

For FSA purposes, when cropland is sold, DCP contract acres can be divided between farms in a manner agreed to by the farm owner, the purchaser or transferee, and mortgage holder if applicable. This division option is referred to as Landowner Designation. The owner of the farm and purchaser or transferee must file a written memorandum of understanding designating contract acres before the farm division is approved by the FSA county Committee and before subsequent transfer of

ownership. Other program requirement must also be met, so contact the FSA office before land changes hand to check out the various options available to you when dividing land.

ELECTION RESULTS

Results of the recently held election in the townships of Burlington, Dover, Norway, Rochester, and Waterford were the election of **Mike Weinkauff** as a member of the Racine Kenosha County FSA County Committee and **Brian Schaal** being elected as an alternate to the County Committee.

Other members of the County Committee consist of:

John Vyvyan, from the townships of Yorkville, Raymond, Mt Pleasant and Caledonia.

Carol Lois from the townships of Wheatland, Randall, Salem and Brighton.

Lori Edquist from the townships of Paris, Bristol, Pleasant Prairie and Somers.

TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR FLP BORROWERS


FSA direct loan borrowers can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number is 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, you will be required to enter your tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. You will also need to enter your ZIP code. You will then create a personal identification number for security; your PIN must be entered every time you use the system. The system menu will help you access helpful information and may also direct you to contact your local FSA servicing office if action is needed on your account.

If you are not a current FSA borrower, FSA's Farm Loan Programs has a portfolio of loans available, including special loans designated for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged groups that include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Contact FSA to find out more about FSA's Farm Loan Programs.


 Elliot Lee Iczkowski born to CED, Kimberly Iczkowski on Thursday, November 30, 2006. 7 lbs 7 oz 19 inches.

Congratulations Kim!



KENOSHA COUNTY 2007 TREE ORDER FORM

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

19600 75TH STREET

P.O. BOX 520

BRISTOL, WI 53104

(262) 857-1895

"There are two great times to plant trees: the first was 20 years ago -- the other is now."

Office Use Only

COMMON NAME	SIZE RANGE	PRICE/25 TREES	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
EVERGREENS				
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	12 to 16" – 2/2yr, TP	\$18.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE	7 to 15" – 2/3yr, TP	\$17.00		
WHITE PINE	6 to 12" – 2/2yr, TP	\$17.00		
BALSAM FIR	6 to 12" – 2/2yr, TP	\$18.00		
EMERALD GREEN ARBORVITAE	12 to 18" - 2/1yr, TP	\$21.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES				
BLACK CHERRY	18 to 24", S	\$15.00		
AMERICAN PLUM	18 to 24", S	\$16.00		
HAZELNUT	18 to 24", S	\$16.00		
SWAMP WHITE OAK	24 to 36", S	\$17.00		
NORTHERN RED OAK	24 to 36", S	\$17.00		
RED MAPLE	24 to 36", S	\$17.00		
SUGAR MAPLE	12 to 18", TP	\$15.00		
WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD	18 to 24",S	\$14.00		
SHRUBS				
AMERICAN ELDERBERRY	18 to 24", S	\$15.00		
ARROWWOOD VIBRURUM	18 to 24", S	\$15.00		
BUTTERFLY BUSH	12 to 18", S	\$15.00		
COMMON LILAC	12 to 18", S	\$12.00		
SPICEBUSH	18 to 24", S	\$15.00		

OTHER ITEMS

WATER GEL	1 Bag / 400 Trees	\$3.00 PER BAG		
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S=Seedlings; TP=Transplants

Kenosha County is offering both Seedlings and Transplants for you to select from. Seedlings are grown direct from seeds and typically are about 2 to 3 years in age. Transplants are seedlings which have been replanted, and are usually hardier, with a heavier stem, and more roots and branches.

GRAND TOTAL

NAME _____	PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____	EMAIL _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____	

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: MARCH 2, 2007

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX. SINGLE ORDERS OF 500 TREES OR MORE RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT

ORDER FORMS ARE ALSO ON THE WEB AT http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/conservation/tree_prgm.html

MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: KENOSHA COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ALL STOCK IS PERISHABLE, AND MUST BE PICKED-UP ON DELIVERY DAY, MID-APRIL (WILL SEND NOTICE)

PLEASE NOTE: PLANTS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR FORESTRY, WINDBREAKS, WILDLIFE, AND CONSERVATION

ORDER EARLY - LIMITED SUPPLY - CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED IF YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE FILLED

FULL PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE ORDER NO REFUND/WARRANTY ON ALL PRODUCTS

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE NEXT YEARS ORDER FORM ()



Jerry Hebard, District Conservationist
phone: (262) 878-1243 ext. 108
e-mail: jerry.hebard@wi.usda.gov

The Carbon Credit Program

I recently became aware of a relatively new program that may interest those practicing no-till or those who have newer Conservation Reserve Program contracts in Kenosha and Racine counties. The Farmers Union's Carbon Credit Program allows Ag producers and landowners to earn income by storing carbon in their soil through no-till crop production and long-term grass seeding practices.

Background on Storing Carbon

Through the process of photosynthesis, all plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere: release oxygen molecules; and store carbon in plant tissues, especially roots. As plants die, carbon molecules remain underground unless disturbed by tillage or any operation allowing carbon atoms to combine with oxygen and escape into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is one of our "greenhouse gases". These gases absorb infrared radiation and trap heat in the atmosphere, generally producing an increase in the average temperature of the earth. According to the National Energy Information Center, greenhouse gases have increased by about 25 percent in the last 150 years. Globally, the United States produces about 25 percent of carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Income from Carbon Credits

Producers will be credited with 0.5 metric ton of carbon for each acre of eligible no-till cropping and 0.75 ton per acre for qualifying grass stands each year of the contract. The price per ton on the Chicago Climate Exchange varies every trading day, but current prices are about 2.00 per acre for no-till and \$3.00 per acre for grass stands less a 10 percent commission fee. This would mean for each

40 acres of no-till would generate \$360 during the 5 year contract, or on a 20 acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) field would earn \$270 during this 5 year period. Check out the Carbon Credit Estimator worksheet for yourself at www.nfu.org.

About the Program

Farmers Union has earned approval from the Chicago Climate Exchange to aggregate carbon credits. Farmers Union will enroll producer acreages of carbon into blocks of credits that will be traded on the Exchange, much like other agricultural commodities are traded. Large companies and other entities purchase credits daily on the Exchange to offset their own carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Some of those companies are required to reduce emissions or buy offsetting credits. Once the credits are sold, producers earn income based on the acres they have enrolled.

Eligible Land Details

Land that is eligible to be enrolled in the Carbon Credit Program must be capable of being cropped, even though it currently may be in a harvested grass or forage crop. It must be designated as "cropland" on Farm Service Agency maps.

No-till participants must commit to continuous conservation tillage on enrolled land from 2006 through 2010.

Seeded grass or forage stands could be fields harvested for hay or those fields that were enrolled in CRP and seeded after January 1, 1999.

Signup deadline is currently the summer of 2007.

Other Information

Once a contract is signed it is legally binding.

The Carbon Credit Program is NOT a government program. It is run by private industry through the Chicago Climate Exchange.

To learn more, go to www.nfu.org or call 1-800-366-8331 ext. 116.



Racine Co. Land Conservation

Articles submitted by: *Chad Sampson*
Conservation Technician

Livestock Siting Ordinance

As of November 1, 2006, the Livestock Siting Ordinance is in effect for **Racine County**. The procedures for Livestock Siting Facilities apply to the following:

1. These procedures apply to all **new or expanding livestock facilities** that will have **500 or more animal units** (approx 360 dairy.)
2. A permit is required for the expansion of pre-existing or previously approved livestock facility if the number of animal units kept at the expanded livestock facility will exceed all of the following:
 - a. The applicable size threshold for a conditional use permit established in the zoning district where the facility is located.
 - b. The maximum number of previously approved or, if no maximum number was previously approved, a number that is 20% higher than the number kept on effective date of the permit requirement.
3. A permit is not required for livestock facility that existed before May 1, 2006, or before the effective date of the permit requirement.
4. A permit is not required for livestock facility that was previously issued a conditional use permit or other local approval. A prior approval for the construction of a livestock facility implies approval for the maximum number of animal units that the approved livestock facility was reasonably designed to house, except as otherwise provided in the approval. Prior approval of a single livestock structure, such as a waste storage structure, does not constitute prior approval of an entire livestock facility.

The requirements of the conditional use permit will include compliance with the following:



1. Waste Storage Facilities
2. Animal Waste and Nutrient Management
3. Runoff Management
4. Odor Management

If you are planning a livestock expansion, or planning a new facility over 500 animal units (approximately 360 dairy), then you will need to contact the Racine County Land Conservation office at 262-886-8479 for a complete overview of the application process and Livestock Siting Requirements.



Racine County Tree Program

The Racine County Tree and Shrub order blanks were included in the last newsletter. If you did not receive an order form, or would like additional copies, go to

www.racineco.com/crepository/lives/07treeorder.pdf.

Prairie and wildflower seed mixes are also available.

The deadline for ordering trees is Friday, February 23rd. The anticipated tree pick-up days will be mid-late April at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence." – Hal Borland

Land and Water Resource Funds Available

Are you considering conservation this year? Some eligible conservation projects include:



Riparian Buffers with Trees



Grassed Waterway (above)



Well Abandonment



Streambank Stabilization

Do not hesitate to apply for **your** cost-share funding today! The Racine County Land Conservation Division may provide up to 70% of the cost of your project. Our office allocates \$50,000 in annual grant monies to distribute to Racine County Land owners with eligible conservation projects. Contact our office to apply for the program at 262-886-8479.

Racine County Online

Utilize the Racine County Website at www.Racineco.com to use our GIS System. Aerial Photography, soil types, parcel ID, and other mapping features are available online to the general public. Once on the Racine County home page, just set the arrow on "G" and click on GIS Racine County for access to unlimited information about Racine County.



**Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Kenosha & Racine Counties**

**Kenosha County
PO Box 550
Bristol, WI 53104
262-857-1945**

**Racine County
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-886-8460**

Article Submitted by: Rose Skora
rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY SCRAPIE PROGRAMS FOR SHEEP

The following information was provided by David Thomas, Extension Sheep Specialist.

Every operation with sheep in the U.S. must be enrolled in the Scrapie Eradication Program or the Scrapie Flock Certification Program. For additional information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/scrapie/>.

SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM - MANDATORY

This program is mandated by the Federal government. By Federal regulation, all sheep flocks in the U.S. must have a Scrapie program premise identification number and all sheep, other than lambs under 18 months of age going to slaughter, must have an official USDA Scrapie eradication program tag in its ear when it leaves the farm.

The Federal Scrapie program premise identification number is different from, and in addition to, the livestock premise identification number required by Wisconsin law through the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium. The official Scrapie eradication ear tags and applicator are free through the USDA Veterinary Services Office in each state.

Wisconsin producers should call the USDA Veterinary Services Office in Madison toll free at 866-873-2824 and request extension 4072 (Doug Rydberg) or extension 4073 (Aaron Moore). Doug and Aaron can assign Scrapie program premise identification numbers and order the free official ear tags and applicator to be sent directly to the producer.

Official Scrapie tags are required for show sheep and lambs according to the following "Wisconsin County, District, & State Fairs, Animal Health Rules and Regulations."

SHEEP ORIGINATING FROM WITHIN WISCONSIN

Sexually intact sheep of any age, and all other sheep 18 months of age and older must be identified with official Scrapie ear tags or other official Scrapie identification. Sheep exposed to Scrapie will not be allowed for exhibition.

SHEEP ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE WISCONSIN

All sheep shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. All sheep must be identified with official Scrapie ear tags or other official Scrapie identification. Sheep exposed to Scrapie will not be allowed to enter Wisconsin.

In addition, some Wisconsin fairs also may require that wether lambs under 18 months of age originating in Wisconsin have official Scrapie ear tags. Exhibitors should check the regulations of their shows.

Many livestock markets require that all sheep, including slaughter lambs under 18 months of age, have an official USDA Scrapie tag. Animals that show up at such markets without an official Scrapie tag are tagged at the market, and the producer often is charged for this service (about \$5.00/head).

SCRAPIE FLOCK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (SFCP) - VOLUNTARY

The SFCP is a voluntary program with the aim to certify flocks as Scrapie free after several years with no incidence of Scrapie in the flock or no potential exposure of the flock to Scrapie. The program requires a premise identification number and official Scrapie ear tags, similar to the Scrapie eradication program. In addition, producers in the program must maintain detailed animal inventories of births, deaths, purchases, and sales of animals. A review of flock records and a comparison of the current paper inventory of sheep in the flock against the actual sheep present on the farm are conducted through periodic on-site visits by a Federal veterinarian. The official SFCP ear tags must be purchased by the producer, but they meet the requirements of an official Scrapie ear tag required by the Scrapie eradication program.

The SFCP meets and exceeds all the requirements of the Scrapie eradication program so producers in the SFCP are automatically enrolled in the mandatory Scrapie eradication program. Wisconsin producers can sign up for the SFCP by calling the USDA Veterinary Services Office in Madison at 866-873-2824 and requesting extension 4072 (Doug Rydberg) or extension 4073 (Aaron Moore).

DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

Racine/Kenosha Farm Service Agency (FSA) 
1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330
Phone: 262-878-3353, Ext 2 Fax: 262-878-3283

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330
Phone: 262-878-1243, Ext 3 Fax: 262-878-3283

Racine County Land Conservation Division
14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177
Phone: 262-886-8479, Fax: 262-886-8488

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation
19600 75th St, PO Box 520, Bristol, WI 53104
Phone: 262-857-1895, Fax: 262-857-6508

Kenosha County UW-Extension
19600 75th St, PO Box 550, Bristol, WI 53104
Phone: 262-857-1945, Fax: 262-857-1998



Racine County UW-Extension
14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177
Phone: 262-886-8460, Fax: 262-886-8489

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15th: Martin Luther King Holiday,
FSA and NRCS offices closed

**Tuesday, February 13th: Pesticide
Applicator Training and Testing,**
Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street,
Bristol, 9am – 3pm

**February 19th: George Washington's
Birthday,** FSA and NRCS offices closed

**Tuesday, February 26th; Pesticide
Applicator Testing Only,** Racine County Ives
Grove Building, 14200 Washington Avenue,
Sturtevant, 5:45pm

March 15th: Wildlife Workshop, for more
information, contact any of the offices.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ties to the Land Newsletter

Your Resource Partners:
Farm Service Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Racine County Land Conservation
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation
UW-Cooperative Extension

TIES TO THE LAND NEWSLETTER
Kenosha/Racine Farm Service Agency
US Department of Agriculture
1012 Vine Street
Union Grove, WI 53182 1330