



NEWSLETTER



November 2012

**Delta, Alger,
Schoolcraft and
Marquette County**

USDA Service Center

2003 Minneapolis
Avenue Suite 102
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-428-1060 (phone)
906-428-1086 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Committee

Jon Haindl, Chairperson
Allen Porath, Vice-Chair
Heidi Heidtman, Member
Dan Bahrman, Member
John Wolf, Member
Diane Hanson, Advisor

Staff

Mitch Towne, CED
Kris Gallant, PT
Rita Mills, PT
Bruce Stephenson, FLM
Bonnie Richmond, FLPT
Clem Geiger, FL-STO

**NEW FALL CERTIFICATION
DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

Producers Take Notice – All Perennial Forage (Hay and Pasture), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains need to be certified for the 2013 growing season by **NOVEMBER 15, 2012**.

This change is a result of the Acreage Crop Reporting Streamline Initiative (ACRSI). A team was given the task of reviewing the acreage reporting dates (ARDs) across both Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. This team concluded that producers wanted a more streamline method to report their crop data.

**2011 Supplemental Revenue
Assistance Payments (SURE)**

The USDA has announced disaster assistance sign-up for 2011 crop losses. Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program beginning immediately. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disaster occurring through September 30, 2011.

All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

During 2011, several Michigan counties received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local FSA County office or visit the website at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>

Emergency Farm Loans Available

USDA/FSA emergency farm loans are available to qualified producers in all Upper Peninsula Counties as a result of losses caused by the following weather conditions:





Appointments Recommended

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork & research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is, & this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.



Preventing Fraud

The FSA supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.



Disaster Description – The effects of blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornadoes, flooding and lightning.

Dates of Disaster – January 1, 2012 to May 11, 2012.

Final Date to Apply – March 1, 2013

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs
- associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expenses
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

All emergency loans must be fully collateralized. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within 1 to 7 years; depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and collateral available as loan security. In special circumstances, terms of up to 20 years may be authorized. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years. In certain circumstances, repayment may be made over a maximum of 40 years. The current annual interest rate for emergency loans is 2.25 percent.

For more information farm operators should contact their local FSA Farm Loan Program office or the Farm Loan Program office in the Gladstone USDA Service Center at 906-428-1060.

2013 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Insurance Deadlines

November 20, 2012 – Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries & Strawberries

December 1, 2012 – Honey & Maple Sap

March 15, 2013 – Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops & Corn in some counties.

If you grow a crop not listed here – call your local FSA Service Center. Keep in mind that some of these crops are covered by Federal Crop Insurance in certain Upper Peninsula counties. In counties where alfalfa and mixed forage (AGM) are covered by crop insurance, FSA cannot sell a NAP policy for these types of forage when the seedings are older than 6 years. Crops determined not insurable and not eligible for NAP do not need to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirements.

REMEMBER - Without insurance you are NOT eligible for National Disaster Programs!

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec. 3, 2012.

Hispanic & Women Farmer & Rancher Claim Period NOW

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic

and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release issued on 9/24/12 click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>



2012 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.



IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In the past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

USDA Historic Aerial Photography

For more than half a century, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has acquired high quality aerial photographs to support federal farm programs. Over the years, the USDA has photographed the vast majority of the nation and its territories at approximately seven-year intervals. The USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) is home to one of the

country's largest aerial film libraries. They currently house more than 70,000 rolls of film. The imagery dates from 1955 to the present, and is available at several different scales and in stereo. The APFO has a photographic wet lab, which allows them to print photos on site. USDA historic photography can play a vital role in environmental assessments, change detection, past land use and property boundary disputes. The photographs are frequently ordered by attorneys, universities, local governments and individuals. USDA imagery is available to the general public at minimal cost. They can provide black and white, color infrared, or natural color prints depending on the original film type. Enlargements up to 38" X 38" are available. They can also provide tiff scans which can be viewed on any computer. Orders for this aerial imagery can be completed by contacting the APFO

by phone, fax, mail or email. Please be prepared to provide an accurate description of the area you wish to be included in your photo; this can be a legal description, latitude and longitude, or a local map. All products are made to order and completion time may vary depending on existing workload. Please include your name, address and phone number with your inquiry.

Customer Service Section
 Telephone: 801-844-2922
 Fax: 801-956-3653
 Email: apfo.sales@slc.usda.gov

USDA Farm Service Agency
 Aerial Photography Field Office
 2222 West 2300 South
 Salt Lake City, UT 84119-2020

More information about APFO's products and services is available at; www.apfo.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
November 15	Deadline to certify all 2013 Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, & other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
November 20	Deadline to purchase 2013 NAP policies for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, Grapes, & Strawberries
November 22	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
December 1	Deadline to purchase 2013 NAP policies for Honey & Maple Sap
December 3	County Committee Election Ballots Due

November Loan Rates	
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 7 year	1.125%
10 year	1.750%
12 year	2.000%
Emergency Loan Rate	2.250%
Market Assistance Loans	1.125%

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