

June 2013



Hillsdale County FSA Updates

Name County FSA Office **DCP Sign-up**

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There has been some confusion this year regarding the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). The Farm Bill was extended and the program is authorized for 2013. There will be changes in the amount of payment you will receive in the fall, **but you have until August 2, 2013 to sign up for the program.**

If you have not signed up, call the office at 849-9890 X 2 to schedule an appointment. You can report your crops and sign up for DCP at the same time.

2013 Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. In general, the final reporting dates in Michigan are:

- November 15 - small grains and hay
- July 15 - All other crops

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP may be due at different times. Call the office if you are unsure.

For 2013, you may report your crops without a late file fee if you report by September 15, 2013, unless you are reporting prevented planting.

We are encouraging producers to report their crops at the same time they sign up for DCP. Call now for an appointment! 517-849-9890.

CRP Continuous, SAFE and CREP

Producers may be eligible to enroll cropland or expiring CRP into the Conservation Reserve Program or CRP. Current CRP ongoing signups include Continuous, SAFE, and CREP. There are specific planting requirements depending on the eligible signup.

CRP pays agricultural producers to use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. CRP addresses erosion problems, provides improved wildlife habitat, and promotes better water, soil, and air quality.

Participants in CRP receive a rental payment each year. Rental rates are competitive with current cropland lease rates. With these types of sign-ups, participants can receive up to 100% reimbursement for money spent on establishing specific ground cover and planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. CRP contracts are binding for 10 to 15 years.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months. In addition, land must have been cropped for the majority of the years from 2002 to 2007. There are special provisions for land that has been planted to hay or has been enrolled in CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=mi&area=home&subject=prog&topic=landing>

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- For up to 5 years after the first conviction
- For up to 10 years after the second conviction
- Permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits as follows:

- Up to one year upon the first conviction
- Up to five years after a second or subsequent conviction.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).