



# NEWSLETTER



December 2012

## Huron County Farm Service Agency

1460 S. Van Dyke Road  
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

989.269.9549 (phone)  
989.269.8421 (fax)

**Website**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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

### County Committee

Chris Grekowicz  
Robert Krohn  
Ken Weber  
Lisa Szymanski

### Farm Program Staff

Becky Aubuchon  
Douglas Gay  
Connie Mattice  
Susan Sauer  
Debi Van Erp

Nathan Prill, Director

### Farm Loan Staff

Ava Hacker  
Wendy Honoway

Angela Herford, Manager

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Ken Weber! Mr. Weber was elected to represent farmers from Sheridan, Bingham, Colfax, Verona, Lincoln, Meade, Dwight, Hume, Port Austin, and Pointe Aux Barques Townships on the Huron County FSA Committee. The election results for Local Administrative Area #2 are:

\*Ken Weber — Elected to the Huron County Committee (COC)

\*Lisa Szymanski — 1st alternate to COC

\*Matthew Reibling — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works because of your participation.

## NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in order to be eligible.

**Next Pages: 2012 CCC Loans, Hispanic Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process, Farm Storage Facility Loans and IRS 1099 Changes for 2012...**



### **Don't Forget – Update Your Farm Records!**

As we await a new Farm Bill, area farmers are encouraged to notify the Huron County FSA Office of any land ownership and operator changes for 2013. If you cash/share rent farmland and become aware that an ownership change occurred (formation of a trust, quit claim to other family member, etc.), please remember to stop by our office when you get a chance.

## **2012 CCC Loans Available - 1.125%**

CCC loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who have unsold commodities remaining from the 2012 crop year. To be eligible, producers must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once interest in a commodity is lost (i.e. sold, fed), the commodity is ineligible for loan and must be repaid. CCC loans are a useful tool for funding general operating and input costs during the winter months and can be obtained at the Huron County FSA Office.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## **Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period**

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 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 their communities

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via e-mail will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50%.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

## **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 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 those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## **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. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## **FSA Signature Policy**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

Huron County FSA Office  
1460 S. Van Dyke Road  
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Lansing, Michigan  
PERMIT #19



### Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. For timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA office if the account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Dates to Remember	
December 25, 2012	Christmas Day, FSA office closed.
January 21, 2013	MLK Day, FSA office closed.
February 18, 2013	Washington's Birthday, FSA office closed.
March 25, 2013	Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period ends.
June 7, 2013	SURE Applications due.

### 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 county FSA office staff.

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.