

May 2012



Ionia County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Ionia County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Ionia County FSA Office

431 Swartz Ct, Ste 300
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: 616-527-2098
Fax: 616-527-9055

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Ionia County Committee:

Steven Buche, Chairman
Jeffery Sandborn, Vice
Chair
Ronald Brownell, Member
Allison Badder, Advisor

Farm Program Staff:

Jenifer A. Taylor, CED
William Brandt, PT
Carolyn Lindberg, PT
Diana Graef, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Paul E. Wagner, FLM
Sara Possehn, FLO
Vicki Carr, PT

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from **June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012**. For more information just contact your local FSA office.

DCP Sign-Up Deadline

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through **June 1, 2012**.

ACRE Yield Data Deadline

To remain eligible for Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) benefits, participants in the ACRE program must certify their yields by **July 15, 2012**.

Crop Reporting

Producers need to file their acreage reports by **June 30th for wheat and July 15th for all other crops**. Crop reports - form FSA-578: Report of Acreage - must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) also must be reported.

We would like to remind producers that planting fruits and/or vegetables (Dry Beans, Sweet Corn, etc) on base acres without an authorized Fruits and Vegetable (FAV) history established will be considered a contract violation and your payment may be reduced accordingly.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

2010 SURE Sign-Up Deadline

Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) program for the 2010 crop year began Nov. 14, 2011, and will end on June 1, 2012. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm is eligible when either:

- A portion of the farm is located in a county, or a contiguous county, covered by a qualifying Secretarial disaster declaration. Paulding County received a 2010 Secretarial disaster declaration.
- An overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected production for the farm for that year.

For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to a natural disaster to at least one crop of economic significance on their farm in order to be eligible for SURE.

MILC Program

Attention dairy farmers: Have you signed your Milk Income Loss Contract? Have you submitted February and March milk production evidence? If not, you'll want to do so. There could be payments waiting for you! The February MILC payment rate was \$0.3895043 per cwt. March has a payment rate of \$0.8262432 per cwt.

If you have signed up and submitted production evidence but are still not receiving payments, please check with the office to ensure

that you have also signed an Adjusted Gross Income form for 2012. This certification must be on file before any payments can be made to you.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

New Financial Management Web Page Available for Producers

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication accesses can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

- Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
- After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
- Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license.

2012 Dates to Remember

May 28th - Office closed for the observance of Memorial Day

May 31st - Final date to obtain loans on harvested corn and soybeans for 2011

June 1st - Deadline for DCP/ACRE Enrollment and ACRE Election

June 20th - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn

June 30th - Final crop certification date for all fall seeded small grain

July 4th - Office closed for the observance of July 4th Holiday

July 5th - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for soybeans

July 15th - Final crop certification date for all crops (including CRP and GRP), except fall seeded small grains - Deadline for reporting 2011 production for enrolled ACRE farms - Deadline for reporting 2011 NAP crop production - Deadline to establish Benchmark Yields for newly enrolled ACRE farms

September 3 - Office closed for the observance of Labor Day

September 30 - NAP sales closing deadline for 2013 forage crops

November 15th - Final crop certification date for all 2012 fall seeded small grain (wheat) and perennial forage

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ionia County FSA Office, contact Jenifer A. Taylor, County Executive Director at jenifer.taylor@mi.usda.gov or 616-527-2098.

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