

October/NOVEMBER 2012



Jackson County FSA Farm Brief Updates

**Jackson County
FSA Office Address:**
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Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM

County Executive Director:
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2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops New Certification Deadline – Nov. 15, 2012

Producers Take Notice – All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall-seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. 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**.

Please call for an appointment to certify your wheat crop.

- * **January 15, 2013** - deadline for all perennial fruits & vegetables.
- * **July 15, 2013** - deadline for Spring Barley, Cabbage (planted 3/31-5/31), Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Green Peas, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Soybeans, and other crops not listed in August, November or January reporting deadlines.
- * **August 15, 2013** - deadline for Cabbage (planted 6/1- 7/20), and Processing Beans.

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 streamlined method to report their crop data.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

USDA ANNOUNCES DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP FOR 2011 CROP LOSSES

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning **Oct. 22, 2012** and ends **June 07, 2013**. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 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.

To make an appointment or for more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Jackson County FSA office ask for Amy Doxtader at : 517.789.7716 ext. 206 or visit the SURE website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

2012 DCP Final Payments

The County Office began releasing DCP payments for 2012 on Oct. 5, 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.

2013 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops for which Risk Management Agency (RMA) Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) coverage is not available may be covered under NAP, and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county.

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined by using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

THE DEADLINE for purchasing your 2013 policies is as follows:

November 20, 2012: Final date to purchase NAP coverage for apples, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, cane berries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb, strawberries.

December 1, 2012: Honey & Maple Sap

REMEMBER – Without crop insurance or NAP on all significant crops, you may NOT be eligible for National Disaster Programs. For additional information please contact your Jackson FSA office.

To find a crop insurance agent, visit the RMA website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

JACKSON COUNTY LOAN RATES 2012 HARVEST;

Corn 1.86 bu.	Soybeans 4.99 bu.	Wheat (SRW) 2.77 bu.
Oats 1.38 bu.		Wheat (SWW) 2.81 bu.

To find a crop insurance agent, visit the RMA website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the Jackson FSA county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact Jackson USDA Service Center to arrange an appointment 517.789.7716 ext.2.

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 producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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 residing in LAA1. Townships included in the LAA1 are Concord, Spring Arbor, Pulaski, Hanover, Horton, Liberty and Summit. Candidates seeking your vote are:

Arthur (Art) Riske – Dairy Operation Hanover Township

Pete Teller-Corn /Soybean Cash Crop Operation Hanover Township

If for some reason you do not 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. Vote only for 1(one) candidate.

Emergency Farm Loans Available

Effective June 29, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture designated 72 Michigan counties as natural and meet other eligibility requirements may qualify for Emergency (EM) loan assistance from FSA.

If you have any questions please call your Jackson FSA office or contact the Farm Loan Program staff headquartered in the Hillsdale USDA Service Center (517) disaster areas with Secretarial Disaster Designation S3259.

Specific counties were designated as natural disaster areas for losses due to the combined effects of blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornadoes, flooding and lightning that occurred January 1, 2012 through May 11, 2012.

Jackson County Michigan is included in the above designation.

The deadline for filing an EM loan application for Disaster Designation S3259 is March 1, 2013.

DROUGHT DESIGNATION:

With an effective date of August 29, 2012, Secretarial Disaster Designation S3370 has been approved for 83 Michigan counties affected by the drought and excessive heat that occurred March 1, 2012 and is continuing.

Jackson County Michigan is included in the natural disaster designation as well as 82 other Michigan counties.

The deadline for filing an EM loan application for Disaster Designation S3370 is April 29, 2013.

The disaster designations make available low interest (recently reduced to 2.25%) loans to farm operators in the designated areas. Farm operators who suffered a 30% loss in crop production caused by the weather conditions and meet other eligibility requirements may qualify for Emergency (EM) loan assistance from FSA. If you have any questions please call your local FSA office Jackson, or contact the Farm Loan Program staff headquartered in the Hillsdale USDA Service Center (517) 849-9890.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program 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 7, 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 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. 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. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit Jackson FSA county office or the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember

Oct 20	Deadline to report prevented planted wheat for 2013 crop year
Oct 22	2011 SURE Enrollment Open
Nov 5	County Committee Election ballots mailed
Nov 12	Veteran Day Federal Holiday-Office Close
Nov 15	2013 Certification Deadline: Fall Seeded Small Grains Crops-Wheat, Rye, Speltz, Alfalfa, Clover, Hay Mixture (perennial forage)
Nov 20	NAP Application Deadline-Apples, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches (all fruits and vegetables perennial crops)
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday-Office Close
Dec 1	Deadline to apply for honey and maple sap
Dec 3	Last Day for Mailing Ballots or Voting in Person at the Jackson County FSA Office
Dec 6	Ballot Count FSA Conference Room 10:00AM
Dec 25	Christmas –Office Closed
Jan 1	New Year’s Day – Office Closed
Jan 15	Deadline to certify apples, cherries, grapes, blueberries & peaches

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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 20250-9450, 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).

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.