

December 2012



## Alpena-Alcona-Montmorency County FSA Updates

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### County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Kevin Small and Dan Smolinski!

Kevin was elected to the County Committee to represent farmers in LAA# 4, which consists of Alcona, Caledonia, Curtis, Hawes, Millen, and Mitchell Townships. The first alternate is Ed McKinnon, who we would like to thank for his last 6 years of service on the County Committee.

Dan was elected to the County Committee to represent farmers in LAA #2, which consists of Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Wellington, and Maple Ridge Townships. Dan was elected for his 2nd consecutive term!

FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and work to ensure FSA programs serve the needs of local producers. We would like to thank all of the nominees for running, as well as thank all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

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### Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTC.net, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

## New January & February Crop Reporting Deadlines

For 2013 there are new reporting deadlines for specific perennial crops, and they are indicated below:

**January 2** -- Honey (Certifying number of Colonies)

**January 15** -- Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries.

**February 1** -- Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and Taps)

Please call your local FSA office for more information on the new crop reporting deadlines.

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## Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

The deadline to request an MAL for wheat and oats is March 31, 2013; the deadline to request an MAL for corn, soybeans and sorghum is May 31, 2013.



## Important Dates and Deadlines

**December 31** - Office closed early in observance of New Year's Eve Day.

**January 1** - Office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

**January 2** - Deadline to certify honey and report subsequent years' production for NAP.

**January 15** - Final date to report Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries. Report subsequent years' production for NAP on these crops.

**January 21** – Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

**January 31** - Final date to request 2012 wool loan or LDP.

**February 18** – Office closed in observance of George Washington's Birthday Holiday

**March 1** - The deadline for filing an Emergency (EM) loan application for Disaster Designation S3259

**March 15** - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops.

**March 31** - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grain (wheat, oats, barley) and honey loans or LDP.

**April 29** - The deadline for filing an Emergency (EM) loan application for Disaster Designation S3370

**May 31** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grain (corn, soybeans) and oilseed (sunflowers) loans or LDP.

**\*Note:** Contact your local FSA office for more information on EM loan designations.

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