

May 2014



# NEWSLETTER



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## Alpena, Alcona, and Montmorency County FSA Office

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**County Executive Director:**  
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**Program Technicians:**  
Michelle Katona  
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Desiree Compeau

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Betty Garrett

**County Committee Members:**  
Daniel Smolinski, Chairman  
Kevin Small, Vice -Chairman  
Janice Emerick, Member  
Todd Ableidinger, Member  
Jeremy Werth, Member  
Louella Byelich, Advisor

**Next County Committee  
Meeting:** Tentatively scheduled  
for June 18, 2014, at 10:00 AM

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**May 31** - Final planting date for spring Barley

**May 31** - Deadline to report Nursery Crops

**May 31** - Last day to request commodity loan for 2013 crop year Corn or Soybeans

**June 5** - Final planting date for Corn

**June 15** - Final planting date for Soybeans

**July 4** - FSA Office closed for Independence Day holiday

**July 15** - Deadline to report most spring-seeded crops

**August 1** - Final date for County Offices to receive FSA-669A's, County Committee nomination form

**September 1** - FSA Office closed for Labor Day Holiday

**October 13** - FSA Office closed for Columbus Day Holiday

**November 11** - FSA Office closed for Veteran's Day Holiday

**November 15** - Deadline to report all perennial forages (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), and all fall-seeded crops (wheat, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains)

**November 27** - FSA Office closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday

**December 25** - FSA Office closed for Christmas Day Holiday

**January 1** - FSA Office closed for New Year's Day Holiday

**January 2** - Deadline to report Honey (number of colonies)

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## GOVDELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

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## HONEYBEE & LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

**Eligible producers can sign up for the following disaster assistance programs:**

### **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. **Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.** Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by **January 30, 2015**.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who had livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, and/or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers with livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by **January 30, 2015**.

## **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):**

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by **August 1, 2014**. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by **November 1, 2014**.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). On the Farm Bill webpage, click on the "Disaster Programs" link on the left-hand side. Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA County Office to apply for these programs.

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

County Committee (COC) elections provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by serving on their local FSA COC. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider running for COC seats.

Elections this year will be held in the Local Administrative Area #5 consisting of Haynes, Gustin, Harrisville, Mikado, and Greenbush Townships. Eligible persons may submit form FSA-669A, Nominating Petition, to the County Office no later than **August 1, 2014**.

For more information regarding the County Committee System, and/or election process, please visit your local FSA County Office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

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## **BEGINNING FARMER LOANS**

FSA assists beginning farmers in financing agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years

- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local FSA County Office. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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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).