

May 2012



## Antrim/Otsego FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from Antrim/Otsego 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.

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### Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

**Address:**

108 Depot Street  
Bellaire, MI 49615

**Phone:** 231-533-8542

**Fax:** 231-533-6689

**Hours:** 8:00AM - 4:30PM

**County Executive**

**Director:**

Kathy Y Kozlowski

**Farm Loan Manager**

James Monroe  
231-941-0951 (phone)

**Program Technicians:**

Kathy B Johnson  
Kari E Tipton

**County Committee (COC)**

Roger Bolhuis, Chairman  
John Makarewicz, Vice  
Chair  
Anthony Prusakiewicz,  
Member  
Daniel Slivinski, Member  
Kevin Bargo, Member  
Deborah Milbocker, Advisor

### DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began January 23, 2012 and runs through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- \* All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be indentified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- \* Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office.  
Changes may include:
  - > Ownership changes
  - > Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - > Change in crop share arrangements

**NOTE:** Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2012

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### Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- \* Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and include all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
  - \* Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.
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### NAP - Notice of Loss

Policy holders are reminded that they must submit a "Notice of Loss" (FSA-576) for:



## 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.



## Appointments Recommended

We recommend that you call to set up an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork and research issues before your appointment. We realize how important your time is, and this will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait around the office.

- \* prevented planting claims, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date
- \* low yield claims and allowable value loss, the earlier of the following:
  - > 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims
  - > 15 calendar days after the normal harvest.

For those producers that have filed a notice of loss, you will need to keep the office informed of your harvest decisions.

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## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

To be in compliance with the HEL and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, by certifying on form AD-1026, that they will not:

- \* Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- \* Plant an agricultural commodity on converted wetland;
- \* Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop-fields, divide a crop into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing draining, must notify the FSA and update form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide HEL or Wetland technical determinations.

Participating producers, who are found to be in Non-Compliance with HEL and/or Wetland Conservation requirements will result in loss of any and all program payments. If a producer has received program benefits and is later found to be non-compliant, they would be required to refund all payments received and may be assessed liquidated damages.

It is very important to notify your FSA office **before** you make any changes to your farmland/cropland acres.

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## Natural Disaster Designations

Effective January 27, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture designated 39 Michigan counties as natural disaster areas. The designation was due to losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, blizzard, tornadoes, lightning and drought that occurred from February 1, 2011 and continued to the end of 2011. The designation opens up the USDA disaster programs for those farmers in these counties who suffered losses.

The designation makes available Emergency loans to farmers who suffered a 30% loss in crop production due to the weather conditions specified in the designations. If you have any questions please call your local FSA office or contact the Farm Loan Program staff headquartered in the Traverse City USDA Service Center.

Counties in Northwest Michigan that were designated include

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating expenses or to help purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of that group.



Antrim, Grand Traverse, Charlevoix, Emmet, Kalkaska, Leelanau and Otsego. In addition to the 39 counties, farmers in counties are named as contiguous counties may also qualify for FSA EM loan assistance.

The deadline for filing an EM loan application under Designation is September 27, 2012.

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## Crop Reporting Deadlines

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 30, 2011 for fall seeded small grain crops and July 15th for all remaining crops.

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

A late filing fee per farm will apply to all acreage reports submitted after the deadline.

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## Dates to Remember

**May 28** – Office closed for Memorial Day

**May 31**- Final date to request feed grain/oilseed commodity loans for 2011 crop

**June 1**– Deadline to enroll in DCP and ACRE

**June 1**– Deadline to enroll in 2010 SURE

**June 30** – Deadline to certify acreage for fall seeded crops

**July 15** – Deadline to certify acreage for spring seeded crops

**July 15** – Deadline to report 2011 production for ACRE

**July 15** – Deadline to report 2011 production for NAP

**Continuing** – Farm Storage Facility Loans

**Continuing** – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, CRP-SAFE

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For more information on bulletin subjects from the Antrim/Otsego FSA Office, contact Kathy Y Kozlowski, County Executive Director at [kathy.kozlowski@mi.usda.gov](mailto:kathy.kozlowski@mi.usda.gov) or 231-533-8542.

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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 20250-9410, 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).

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