

October 2012



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## Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your 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

231-941-0951

## New Certification Deadline – Nov. 15, 2012

**Producers Take Notice** – 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**.

- \* **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.

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## 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. 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.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Antrim/Otsego County FSA office at: 231-533-8542, ext. 2 or visit the SURE website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

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## 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.lfctool.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 local FSA office.

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## Crop Insurance now covers Sweet Cherries in Antrim County

For crop year 2013, producers in Antrim, Benzie, Manistee, Mason and Oceana Counties have the option of purchasing crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for sweet cherries produced in those counties.

Because it is a pilot policy, and CAT coverage is not available from crop insurance, you may still choose to insure your sweet cherries with the FSA under the NAP program. You will want to contact a crop insurance representative directly to receive information on policy details.

To find a crop insurance agent, visit the RMA website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>. For information about the ARH Sweet Cherry Policy, visit: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html>.

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## 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 November 5, 2012. 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 December 3, 2012.

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# Emergency Farm Loans Available

Effective June 29, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture designated 72 Michigan counties as natural 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.

Counties in Northwest Michigan included in the above designation are Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Emmet, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Otsego, and Wexford counties.

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.

The Northwest Michigan counties that have been included in the natural disaster designation are Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Emmet, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Otsego, and Wexford Counties as well as 74 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 in Bellaire (231) 533-8542, Traverse City (231) 941-0951, or Petoskey (231) 347-2133 or contact the Farm Loan Program staff headquartered in the Traverse City USDA Service Center (231) 941-0951.

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## 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 your FSA county office or the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Dates to Remember

The following are important deadline dates for fall 2012, & January 2013:

- **October 20th** - Deadline to report prevented planted wheat for 2013 crop year
- **November 1st** - Deadline to submit MILC production evidence
- **November 12th** - Veterans Day Holiday – **Office closed**
- **November 15th** - Deadline to certify fall-seeded small grains, including  
winter wheat AND perennial forage (alfalfa and alfalfa mix)
- **November 20th** - Deadline to apply for NAP Policies for all fruit and vegetable perennial crops
- **November 22nd** - Thanksgiving Holiday – **Office closed**
- **December 1st** - Deadline to apply for NAP Policies for honey and maple sap
- **December 25th** - Christmas Holiday – **Office Closed**
- **January 1st** - New Year's Day Holiday – **Office Closed**
- **January 15th** - Deadline to certify apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, & peaches

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