

March 2013



Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

Antrim/Otsego County **45th CRP General Sign-Up**

FSA Office Address:

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County Executive Director:

Kathy Y Kozlowski

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Program Technicians:

Kathy B Johnson

Kari E Tipton

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee (COC)

Roger Bolhuis, Chairman

John Makarewicz, Vice Chair

Anthony Prusakiewicz, Member

Daniel Slivinski, Member

Kevin Bargy, Member

Deborah Milbocker, Advisor

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Farm Loan Manager

Farming Operation Changes

James Monroe

231-941-0951

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-Up

Producers can now enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for **2011** crop year losses. 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>.

NAP Losses and Production Reporting

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report low yield, failed acreage and prevented planting, and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final

planting date for the crop.

FSA reminds producers who are first-time NAP participants with coverage for the 2013 crop year of production and reporting requirements. These producers need to submit a minimum of four, up to ten years of production in order to establish their 2013 approved yield.

To remain eligible for NAP assistance, crop acreage must be reported annually. Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding local acreage reporting and final planting dates.

Emergency Loans

Secretarial Designation (S3370) became effective August 29, 2012, due to drought and excessive heat that occurred March 1, 2012, and continued throughout the summer. The deadline for filing an Emergency Loan for production losses due to the above stated weather condition is **April 29th, 2013**.

The disaster designation makes available low interest loans to farm operators in the designated area. 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.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

All emergency loans must be fully collateralized. Producers may be eligible to borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within 1 to 7 years; depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and collateral available as loan security. In special circumstances, terms of up to 20 years may be authorized. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years. In certain circumstances, repayment may be made over a maximum of 40 years.

For more information farm operators should contact their local FSA office or the Farm Loan Program office in the Grand Traverse USDA Service Center, 231.946.0951, ext 109.

Dates to Remember

March 31 - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP.

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

May 20 - General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up period.

May 27 - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day.

May 31 - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP.

June 3 - ACRE sign-up ends.

June 7 - Deadline to sign-up for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses.

June 14 - CRP sign-up ends.

June 30 - Final date for late-filed certifications for fall-2012 seeded crops, hay, and mixed forage.

July 15 - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program.

July 15 - Deadline for acreage reports on all other crops.

August 2 - DCP sign-up ends.

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

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).