

May 2013



## Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

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### Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

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**County Executive Director:**  
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**County Committee (COC):**  
Roger Bolhuis, Chairman  
John Makarewicz, Vice Chair  
Anthony Prusakiewicz,  
Member  
Daniel Slivinski, Member  
Kevin Bary, Member  
Deborah Milbocker, Advisor

**Farm Loan Manager:**

James Monroe  
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### COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#). For more information contact your local FSA office.

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### Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

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### DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end 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.

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## Crop Certification Deadlines

### 2013 Crop Year and Continuing

Due to changes in program provisions it is even more important for producers to timely file crop acreage reports on their farms.

Crop acreage reports are essential to maintain eligibility for multiple FSA programs, and to establish a record of historical cropping. Farm Bill legislation continues the crop reporting requirement.

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares. Prevented planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date. Failed acres must be reported to FSA within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent for non-insurable crops and prior to disposition of the crop.

### Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **June 30** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains (for 2013 only). **For 2014** Perennial Forage, Fall-seeded small grains as listed above need to be reported by November 15, 2013
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod

### Late Fees:

Due to changes in program provisions for timely-filed crop reports, late fees for 2013 Crop Year Certifications will be waived. No such provision currently exists for the following crop year, **beginning with the November 15, 2013** deadline for 2014 Crop Year Perennial Forage certifications a late fee will be assessed.

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## CRP Signup 45 Began May 20, 2013

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 program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 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.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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