

June 2013



Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

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DCP Deadlines Approach

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline.

The 2013 DCP 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 (the deadline to enroll into ACRE was June 3, 2013). This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 can now elect to enroll in DCP in 2013.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA County Office for more information or to set up an appointment to enroll.

Fruit and Vegetable (FAV) planting requirements

The Fruit and Vegetable (FAV) planting requirements remain the same as in previous years which state that planting an FAV crop on an enrolled farm is authorized if an FAV history has been established. Acre for acre payment reductions may apply if those acres are planted on base acres.

Planting FAV's on a farm that has no history and is enrolled may constitute a contract violation that authorizes penalties to be assessed.

Please check with your local FSA Office to determine FAV eligibility and to eliminate the potential violations in planting those FAV crops.

2013 Crop Year and Continuing - Acreage Reporting

Due to changes in program provisions it is even more important for producers to timely file crop acreage reports on their farms. Producers are reminded to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares.

Prevented planting claims need to be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. For 2013 "ONLY", the final date to report Prevented Planting claims has been extended to July 15th, 2013.

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.

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.

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries
- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — The division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate

Designation of Landowner Method — May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding

DCP Cropland Method — The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract

Default Method — The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Banking Changes

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Dates to Remember

July 4 - Office closed in observance of Independence Day.

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

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

August 1 - Last day to file County Committee election nomination forms (FSA-669A) at your local FSA Office.

August 2 - DCP sign-up ends.

November 4 - Election ballots mailed to eligible voters.

November 15 - Last day to report your **2014** Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, and Pasture), Fall-seeded

Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded fall grains. *

December 2 - Last day to return completed ballots to your local FSA office.

January 1, 2014 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

* **NOTE:** Beginning with the November 15, 2013 certification deadline for **2014** Crop Year Perennial Forage certifications, a late filing fee will be assessed on crops certified after their respective reporting deadlines.

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).