

June 2014



NEWSLETTER



- [Save Time – Make An Appointment With FSA](#)
- [USDA'S Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) Offers Farm Bill Website And Online Overview Of Farm Bill Programs](#)
- [2014 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Beginning Farmer Loans](#)
- [Farm Operation Changes](#)
- [Breaking New Ground](#)

Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

108 Depot Street
Bellaire, MI 49615

Phone: (231) 533-8542

Fax: (855) 643-5274

County Executive Director:

Kathy Y Kozlowski

Program Technicians:

Kathy B Johnson
Kari E Tipton

County Committee (COC):

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

Farm Loan Manager:

James Monroe
231-941-0951

Farm Loan Officer:

Caleb Boge

Next County Committee

Meeting: July 17, 2014 9:30 am

Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

USDA'S Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Antrim/Otsego County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Antrim/Otsego County:

July 15, 2014	Beans (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Kidney, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, Small White/Navy, Tebo, Yellow Eye), Hops, and Cabbage (Planted Before 5/31), Forage Seeding, all other Spring seeded crops.
August 15, 2014	Cabbage (Planted 6/1 - 7/20)
September 30, 2014	Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod
November 15, 2014	Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture) Fall-Seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
January 2, 2015	Honey (Certifying number of Colonies)
January 15, 2015	Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries
February 1, 2015	Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and Taps).

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Antrim/Otsego County FSA office at (231) 533-8542 ext. 2.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Operation Changes

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.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers 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 risk 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.

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).