

July 2014



NEWSLETTER



- [2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must Be Filed By Aug. 1, 2014 For Honeybee, Livestock And Farm-Raised Fish Losses](#)
- [2014 Crop Acreage Reporting](#)
- [USDA'S Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) Offers Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers with New Online Resource to Support the Next Generation of Farmers](#)
- [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#)
- [USDA Invites Suggestions For The 2017 Census Of Agriculture](#)

Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

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 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: August 15, 2014***
9:00 am (*subject to change)

2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must Be Filed By Aug. 1, 2014 for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the ELAP Fact Sheet on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting

In order to comply with FSA program Eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Antrim/Otsego County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to submit a crop acreage report, also referred to as crop certification. If you still haven't completed your 2014 crop certification please call the office today to schedule an appointment at (231) 533-8542 ext. 2.

USDA'S Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers with New Online Resource to Support the Next Generation of Farmers

USDA has announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA unveiled www.usda.gov/newfarmers, a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

USDA's [New Farmers website](#) has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

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.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) initiative is a USDA-wide effort focused on strengthening local and regional food systems.

In recent years, consumers have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally-produced foods and many farmers and ranchers followed the trend and offer fresh foods through local markets.

USDA followed suit, developing KYF2, which helps connect consumers with producers in their community. USDA offers a wide range of programs that can assist farmers, ranchers, businesses, communities and individuals. To learn more about grants, loans and support that is available, visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANTS.

These USDA programs stimulate economic development in agricultural communities, foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers, promote locally and regionally grown and processed foods, cultivate healthy eating habits and educated consumers, expand access to affordable fresh and local food and develop a connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

For more information on KYF2, visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

USDA Invites Suggestions for the 2017 Census of Agriculture

USDA invites suggestions for the 2017 Census of Agriculture that is conducted once every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture down to the county level.

NASS released the complete 2012 Census of Agriculture results on May 2, 2014. The agency is now planning the content for the 2017 Agriculture Census and is accepting input. Any individual or organization may submit suggestions on questionnaire items to add or delete, as well as any other ideas concerning the Census. There will be another opportunity to provide official comment through the Federal Register process in the coming weeks.

Content suggestions for the 2017 Census will be accepted until August 4, 2014. Comments can be submitted online at www.agcensus.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Census_Program_Input_Form/. Written suggestions may be mailed to: Census Content Team, Room 6451, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

To learn more and to access the complete 2012 Census of Agriculture results, including State and County Profiles and all the other Census data and tools, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

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).