

May 2012



Bay County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new bulletins and updates service from your Bay County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Bay County FSA Office

4044 S Three Mile Rd
Bay City, MI 48706

Phone: 989-686-0430
Fax: 989-686-7925

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

County Executive

Director:

John C. Porath

Program Technicians:

Renay Fritch
Donna Jacobs
Cathy Krengielski
Jodi Meylan

County Committee (COC)

Gene VanDriessche, Chair
William Hugo, Vice Chair
Bernie Cianek, Member
Renee DeShano, Advisor

2012 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operation. 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.

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 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. For more information just contact your local FSA office.

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Deadline

Sign-up for the 2012 DCP Program ends on **June 1, 2012**. Please call the FSA office immediately to schedule an appointment if you wish to enroll in the 2012 DCP Program.

Farm Changes – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share. Changes that may require farm combinations or divisions should be reported as soon as possible.

Deadline for Reporting Crops-July 15th

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-

Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) also must be reported.

Crop reports — form FSA-578, Report of Acreage — must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by July 15, 2012.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant to extend or renew a loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

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, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2011 Commodity Loan

The deadline for 2011 Commodity Loan is May 31st.

Dates to Remember

June 1 SURE Sign up closes
June 1 2012 DCP Enrollment Closes
June 1 Farm Record Changes Deadline
June 15 COC Nominations Open
June 15 AGI Form CCC 931 Due
Aug. 1 Last Day for COC Nominations

Deadline for spring planted crop insurance purchase or change

Deadline for non-insured (NAP) spring crop coverage purchase at FSA

For more information on bulletin subjects with the Bay County FSA Office, John C. Porath, County Executive Director call at 989-686-0430.

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 20250-9410, 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).
