

February 2013



Branch County FSA Updates

Branch County FSA Office

387 N. Willowbrook, Ste. F
Coldwater, MI 49036

Phone: 517-278-2725

Fax: 517-278-5176

County Executive Director:
Hope R. Gentile

Program Technicians:
Shelly Dickinson

Kelly Gruner

Jessica Mobley

Linda Snyder

Farm Loan Staff:

Farm Loan Manager:

Russ Lafollete

Loan Officer:

Crystal Hepker

Program Technician:

Debra Wheeler

Joann VanDeusen

Phone: 517-849-9890

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on 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.

Farming 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. This includes updating any expired cash farm leases, regardless if the farm is participating or not. Failure to submit leases for non-participating farms could result in you not being given information on that farm due to privacy guidelines. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased 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. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and FY.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Planting Transferability Pilot Project in Michigan

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Planting Transferability Pilot Project (PTPP) permits Michigan producers to plant approved vegetables for processing on base acres under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Eligible producers have until April 5, 2013 to sign up for the PTPP.

The PTPP allows producers to plant approved fruits or vegetables for processing on a farm's base acres – these include cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, pumpkins, snap beans, sweet corn or tomatoes. Without the PTPP, planting these crops on base acres would be prohibited. Base acres on a farm will be temporarily reduced each year on an acre-for-acre basis, for each base acre planted with an approved fruit or vegetable on that farm. Michigan is approved to enroll a total of 9,000 acres into PTPP.

Eligible participants must agree to produce one of the approved crops for processing and provide the county FSA office with a copy of the contract between the producer and the processing plant. Participants must agree to produce the crop as part of a program of crop rotation on the farm to achieve agronomic, pest and disease management benefits, and to provide disposition evidence of the crop. Participants must complete form CCC-749, Request to Participate in the 2013 Planting Transferability Pilot Project, (available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>) and file it with their county FSA office by the April 5, 2013 deadline.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in order to be eligible.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember:

- **March 15th** - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops including sweet corn, pumpkins and most vegetables
- **March 15th** - Final date to purchase FCIC crop insurance for annual crops
- **March 25th** - Final date for Women and Hispanic farmers and ranchers claim period
- **March 31st** - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP
- **May 20th** - CRP sign-up begins

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 20250-9450, 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).