



APRIL 2012

**Calhoun County FSA
USDA Service Center**

13464 Preston Dr. Ste. 100
Marshall, MI 49068
Phone: 269-781-4263 ext. 2
Fax: 269-781-3199

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Beth Korn, Chairperson
Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair
David Bosserd, Member
Denice Raymond, Advisor

County Staff

Bonnie Baxter, PT
Mack Francoeur, FLM
Ellen Kiessling, PT
Elizabeth Lake, CED
Kim Odette, PT
Dana Sherman, PT

Dates to Remember

May 28 – Memorial Day
May 31 – Final date to request 2011 corn, soybean loan
June 1 – 2012 DCP/ACRE enrollment deadline
June 1– 2010 SURE deadline
June 20 – Final date to file prevented planted corn claim
June 30– Final date to file prevented planted soybean claim
June 30 – Crop reporting deadline for 2012 crop fall seeded small grains

County Committee Election Results

Voters in Local Administrative Area 3, which includes Albion, Clarence, Clarendon, Eckford, Homer, Marengo, and Sheridan, elected **Keith Lawrence to serve a 3-year term on the County Committee**. Keith has served on the Committee for the past six years.

County Committee Advisor

The Calhoun County FSA Committee (COC) has just named Denice Raymond of Ceresco as COC Advisor. Denice will be a voice for under-represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers in the community. Advisors serve for a 12-month period, not to exceed nine consecutive years. March 2012 began Denice's fifth year of service. Advisors attend and participate in each COC meeting, including executive sessions.

County Committee Meeting Dates

County Committee meetings are being held on a quarterly basis due to budgetary constraints. In the past, meetings have generally been held monthly.

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1 in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to the Calhoun FSA office. Changes may include:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

ADVANCE payments are not being issued for 2012, only FINAL payments in October 2012. If you need short-term money, check out the possibility of a FSA's **9-month COMMODITY LOAN**.

NEW Crop Reporting Dates

To better align with crop insurance reporting deadlines, FSA is changing some of the acreage reporting dates. **All 2013 crop year forage and fall-seeded small grains will need to be reported to FSA by November 15, 2012.**

2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup for the SURE Program for 2010 crop losses continues through June 1, 2012.

SURE is available to eligible producers who meet one of the two requirements:

- 1) Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10 percent crop production or quality loss, or both, on ALL crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- 2) Farms in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Contact the office if you think you may qualify for this disaster assistance.

Prevented Planted Acreage for 2012

Prevented planted acreage must be filed within 15 days of the final planting date.

CROP	FINAL PLANTING DATE	DEADLINE TO FILE PREVENTED
Corn	June 5	June 20
Soybeans	June 15	June 30
Wheat	October 20	November 5

DCP/ACRE Cash Lease Requirements

All leases provided to FSA must include the following information:

1. Type of lease;
2. Length of lease;
3. Landowner and operator names printed, signatures, and date.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with **Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Provisions** are required. Producers with HEL farms need to be aware of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Contact the USDA Service Center **prior to modifying any wetland or drainage ditch** (including tiling, draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing tree stumps). Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

Please note that when a determination is being made on one area of a tract the whole tract will be reviewed and determinations made. You will be notified of the determinations made for the entire tract and will be given 30 days to request reconsideration if you do not agree. If you wait longer than 30 days to review these determinations, you will have lost your right to appeal.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Commodity Loans, also known as Marketing assistance loans, provide producers interim financing to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically low at harvest time. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth (9) calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 1.125%.

Crop	Loan Rate	Final Availability
Corn	\$1.86/bu	May 31, 2012
Soybeans	\$4.93/bu	May 31, 2012

Got Hay?...Need Hay?

Producers are encouraged to use **Hay Net** on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

Farm Loan Limits

The farm bill expanded and enhanced farm loan programs and preferences for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, increases loan limits for all borrowers, including:

- Increased direct ownership loan limit to \$300,000
- Increased operating loan limit to \$300,000.

Loans Available for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these 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 and does not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county's median size.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA can make loans to youth to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

The maximum loan size is \$5,000. To qualify:

- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources;
- Conduct a modest income producing project in a supervised program of work.

Applicants must also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. Contact Mack Francoeur, Jr. at 269-781-4263 ext. 2 for additional information.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is a program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

NAP crop losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

GovDelivery...Tell Your Friends and Family!

To cut costs, **FSA is increasing our communication with farmers through email.** If we do not have a current email address on file for you, please visit or call (269-781-4263, ext. 2) the Calhoun FSA office with an address where you can receive information about FSA. This can be your own email, or **if you do not have an email account, you can provide us with a friend or family member's email** that would pass the information along to you. In the future, the Calhoun FSA office will be sending information, such as newsletters and reminders, to your email. In the mean time, to receive general notifications from FSA via email you can visit Michigan's FSA website and sign up for updates: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi>. Follow the "Newsletters" link on the left column of the main page and enter your email in the "Sign up for updates" box under "Stay Connected" section on the right side of the page.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. **County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.**

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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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.