

October 2012



Calhoun County FSA Updates

Calhoun County FSA Office

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New 2013 Crop Reporting Deadline for Wheat and Hay!

Wheat, forage crops (including established seedings of alfalfa and hay), and other fall seeded small grains must be reported at the Calhoun County FSA office by **November 15, 2012. Prevented planting on wheat must be reported by November 9, 2012.** These new FSA crop-reporting dates are consistent with the reporting requirements for crop insurance.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official Calhoun County FSA Committee election ballot starting early November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area #1. This includes the townships of Bedford, Convis, Emmett, Lee, Marshall, Pennfield, and the City of Battle Creek. If for some reason you do not receive a ballot, feel free to notify the Calhoun County FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec.3, 2012. Ballots will be counted on December 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in the Marshall USDA Service Center, 13464 Preston Dr., Marshall, MI.

FSA Farm Loans

If you are having a challenge getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available and currently **Emergency Loans are available for the 2012 crop year.**

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you have had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your 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 \$1,302,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,302,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Mack Francoeur, Farm Loan Manager for Calhoun County FSA at (269) 781-4263, ext. 2.

EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATIONS AND DEADLINES

Calhoun County has been approved for the following disaster designations:

Secretarial Disaster Designation S3259 -

Cause – blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornadoes, flooding and lightning that occurred January 1, 2012 through May 11, 2012.

Deadline to apply for production losses: March 1, 2013

Secretarial Disaster Designation S3303 -

Cause – drought that occurred July 17, 2012 and continuing.

Deadline to apply for production losses: March 25, 2013

Secretarial Disaster Designation S3370 -

Cause – drought and excessive heat that occurred March 1, 2012 and continuing.

Deadline to apply for production losses: April 29, 2013

The interest rate for 2012 emergency loans is 2.125 percent.

Marketing Assistance Loans (9-Month Commodity Loans)

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

CROP	LOAN RATE	AVAILABLE THROUGH:
Corn	\$1.86/bu	May 31, 2013
Soybeans	\$4.93/bu	May 31, 2013
Soft White Wheat	\$2.77/bu	April 1, 2013
Soft Red Wheat	\$2.75/bu	April 1, 2013
Oats	\$1.38/bu	April 1, 2013

NOTE: Loan rates will be reduced 30% for commodities grown on farms enrolled in ACRE.

Farm Service Agency Deadlines

November 1st – Deadline to submit final production evidence and any supporting documentation for the Milk Income Loss (MILC) program.

November 12th - Office closed in observance of Veterans' Day holiday.

NEW - November 15th - 2013 crop reporting deadline for wheat, alfalfa, hay, and fall-seeded small grains

November 20th – Final date to purchase NAP coverage for apples, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, cane berries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb, strawberries.

November 22nd - Office closed for Thanksgiving Day holiday.

December 1st – Final date to purchase NAP coverage for honey, maple sap.

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).