

March 2013



Calhoun County FSA Updates

Calhoun County FSA Office

13464 Preston Drive, Ste.100
Marshall, Michigan 49068

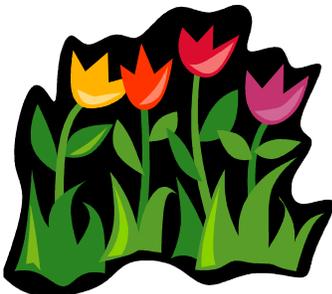
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DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are ongoing. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 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. Please call 269-781-4263 x 2 for your appointment.

45th CRP General Sign-Up

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14.

CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, contact our office at 269-781-4263 x 2 or check out these programs online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Time is running out to request a 2012 commodity loan on grain stored either on the farm in an eligible storage structure or in an approved warehouse.

The deadlines are:

- March 31, 2013 for wheat, oats and barley.
- May 31, 2013 for corn and soybeans.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan 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 that 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;

§ Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Calhoun Conservation District Tree & Native Plant Sale

The Calhoun Conservation District is now taking orders for their spring tree and native plant sale. Orders will be accepted through March 29, 2013. Order forms are available by visiting www.calhouncd.org. You may also contact the Conservation District office for an order form and list of available trees and plants. The office is located at 13464 Preston Drive Suite 120, Marshall, Michigan or by phone at (269) 781-4867, ext. 5. Distribution will be at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds 4-H horse barn on April 19th and 20th.

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).