

June 2013



Calhoun County FSA Updates

Calhoun County FSA Office

13464 Preston Drive, Ste.100
Marshall, Michigan 49068

Phone: 269-781-4263

Fax: 269-781-3199

County Executive

Director:

Elizabeth Lake

Farm Loan Manager:

Mack Francoeur, Jr.

Program Technicians:

Bonnie Baxter

Kim Odette

Dana Sherman, FLP

County Committee:

Beth Korn, Chairperson

Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair

Sharon Williams, Member

Denice Raymond, Advisor



2013 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, to certify planted acres by the final dates (listed below) to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Commodity Loans
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares.

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Sod

Late Fees:

Due to changes in program provisions for timely-filed crop reports, late fees for 2013 Crop Year Certifications will be waived. No such provision currently exists for the following crop year, **after September 15, 2013 late fees will apply.**

DCP Signup Deadline

Signup for the annual Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) ends **August 2nd**. We are not mailing out appointment cards this year, so please call to make an appointment, if you have not done so already. **Time is running out!!**

2013 Prevented Planting and Failed Acreage

Crops that were prevented from being planted or failed due to a natural disaster condition should be reported on your crop certification. Producers must timely file a CCC- 576, *Notice of Loss*, and mark on maps the area where the prevented or failed crop is located. Timely reporting crop losses could be beneficial with crediting cropping history, future disaster programs, or RMA claims.

Prevented Planting - For 2013 **ONLY**, you may file prevented planting by **July 15, 2013**.

Failed Acreage - Must be filed before disposition of the crop. We need to be given enough notice to be able to verify the loss before the crop is destroyed.

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Filing for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

2013 FSA County Committee Elections

The area electing a County Committee (COC) member this year is Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. LAA 2 includes the townships of Athens, Burlington, Fredonia, Leroy, Newton, and Tekonsha. Beth Korn currently represents LAA 2 and is eligible for re-election, if nominated.

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.

COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these under-represented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws, and members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 17, 2013 – The nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2013 – This is the last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 4, 2013 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 2, 2013 – Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2014 – Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement

that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 1, 2013**.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).