

August 2013



Calhoun County FSA Updates Topics for August

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Calhoun County

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Beth Korn, Chairperson

Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair

Sharon Williams, Member

Denice Raymond, Advisor

Next County Committee

Meeting: September, 17,
2013 at 8:30 AM

Late-filed Acreage Reports and DCP!

Producers are encouraged to submit any late-filed acreage certifications or contracts for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program as **soon as possible!** There is a very limited window for consideration of these documents. If required documents are not returned, annual payments will not be issued. If you have any questions, please contact the Calhoun FSA office at 269.781.4263, extension 2.

Report 2014 Wheat and All Hay by November 15, 2013

The date has changed! Producers are required to certify wheat and forage crops by **November 15, 2013**. This includes **2014 wheat, all previously seeded forage (ex: alfalfa, mixed hay), and any other fall-seeded crops**. The reporting deadline has been revised to coincide with crop insurance reporting deadlines. Please be aware that the November 15th deadline applies even if you do not carry crop insurance coverage. **If you report these crops after the deadline, a late file fee of \$46 per farm will be assessed.**

MILC Production Deadline

Final production evidence for MILC program payments **MUST** be received in this office by **Close of Business on November 1, 2013**. All production evidence for milk produced during the months of **October 2008 through September 2013** (for which a payment was available) must be received in the office by this date if they were not previously submitted. **Payments will not be made on any production evidence that is received after November 1, 2013.**

NAP Insurance for Hay and Forage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. The coverage is for losses on an eligible crop that occur when natural disasters cause prevented planting or a catastrophic loss of production. NAP is not available for crops that can be insured in the county by regular crop insurance. Eligibility requirements for the last disaster program included a provision that producers carry coverage on all crops including hay.

The application deadline date for the 2014 NAP coverage for small grains, and forage crops, including alfalfa and mixed forage hay, is September 30, 2013.

Producers who already have coverage on 2013 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop for 2014, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

In order to qualify for benefits, producers with NAP coverage must remember to:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, or other natural disasters.

Call the office with questions at 269.781.4263, extension 2

Farmland and/or Cropland Changes

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive benefits from USDA, you must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting any land clearing, leveling or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work does not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification, to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Please feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency with any questions.

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).