

September 2013



Calhoun County FSA Updates

Topics for September

- Important Dates to Remember
- Payments in October – Have You Changed Banks?
- Marketing Assistance Loans (9-Month Commodity Loans)
- NAP Insurance for Hay and Forage
- Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

Calhoun County FSA Office

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County Executive

Director:

Elizabeth Lake

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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

Next County Committee

Meeting: December 5,

2013 at 9:00 AM

Important Dates to Remember

September 30 - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on forage crops

October 14 - Office closed to observe Columbus Day Holiday

November 1 – MILC Program Deadline for Milk production for October 2008 through September 2013

November 11 - Office closed to observe Veterans Day

November 15 - Final date to report your **2014** perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye and all other fall seeded small grains

NOTE: Beginning with the November 15, 2013, certification deadline for 2014 crop year perennial forage certifications, a late filing fee will be assessed on crops certified after their respective reporting deadline.

Payments in October – Have You Changed Banks?

Payments will be made sometime in October for several programs. Since payments are made by direct deposit it is extremely important to update your banking information with our office to ensure your payments arrive timely. If your bank changes names or you close your account, you need to notify our office. Payments will be delayed if we are not aware of changes to accounts and routing numbers.

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

Marketing Assistance Loans (9-Month Commodity Loans)

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

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 month following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 1.125 percent.

CROP	LOAN RATE	AVAILABLE THROUGH:
Corn	\$1.85/bu	May 31, 2014
Soybeans	\$4.93/bu	May 31, 2014
Soft White Wheat	\$2.54/bu	March 31, 2014
Soft Red Wheat	\$2.57/bu	March 31, 2014
Oats	\$1.38/bu	March 31, 2014

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

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

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.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

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).