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Cass County News

Cass County FSA
1127 E. State
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-8641, Ext. 2
FAX: (269) 445-0619

County Committee
F. David Grabemeyer
Carl Sparks
Dan Stutsman

Advisor
Esther Leach

Permanent Staff
Judi Kidman
Zelda Cloud
Rhonda Barnett

Farm Loan Manager
William Hogan

Farm Loan Officer
Estanislado Munoz

Program Technician
Pamela Merwin

Field Assistant

John Green
Richard Swartz
Robert Dohm

**County Executive Director,
Acting**
Jayne A. Van Ness



Email Address Request

As you visit the Farm Service Agency offices during the remainder of the DCP (Direct and Counter Cyclical Program) sign up as well as during crop certification, you will be asked for your email address. This is our only available means of communicating program information.

Press releases may be sent to our local news media sources, however many times they will not print our information. Agricultural issues are not normally pressing publications to them.

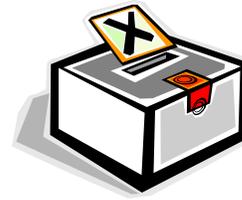
Please help us to ensure that our program delivery system does not fail. Your email addresses provided are to be used for FSA purposes only.

See below....

FSA is moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new EGovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Moving towards electronic publications will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

To sign up for EGovDelivery please access;
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

Check out Michigan's website at
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi



Committee Elections

The Cass County Committee election will be held this year in the townships of; Calvin, Jefferson, Ontwa, Mason, North and South Porter.

Dan Stutsman currently serves in that position.

Persons interested in being placed on the election ballot must submit form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for FSA Committee Election. The deadline to submit a petition is August 1, 2012.

A post card will be mailed to all eligible voters in those areas holding election as a reminder.

NAP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Producers with NAP (Non Insured Assistance Program) policies must report prevented planting and/or crop losses immediately to ensure timeliness of farm visits and eligibility for program benefits.

Producers are also encouraged to purchase a NAP policy for FSA for those crops that are not insurable with Risk Management (Crop Insurance) in Cass County.



DCP Sign Up Coming to a Close

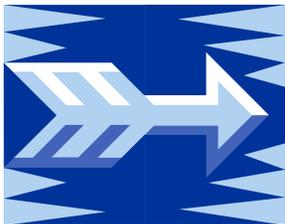
Sign up for the 2012 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) which began on January 23, 2012 will end June 1, 2012.

Advance payments were not authorized for the 2012 program year. Final payments are still projected to be disbursed on/or about October/November 2012.

Please contact your local FSA Office to schedule an appointment so that all records can be gathered and contracts prepared in advance.

We remind producer's that planting fruits and/or vegetables (Dry Beans, Sweet Corn, etc) on base acres without an authorized Fruits and Vegetable (FAV) history established will be considered a contract violation. If your intentions are to plant an FAV commodity on a specific farm, visit with your local FSA Office in advance to remain in compliance with farm bill provisions.

PREVENTED PLANTING ACREAGE



FSA issued revised provisions regarding the maximum number of prevented planted acres to be approved. FSA will no longer base the eligibility on the history of planting and/or prevented planting of the specific crop.

Deadline to file for prevented planting requests must be submitted within 15 days of the ending planting dates for those specific crops.

FAILED ACREAGE

With the recent rainfall and frost/freeze across both counties, failed crops have been reported. You are reminded that failed crop provisions require reports within 15 days from the date of the disaster occurrence. The Farm Service Agency has reported those weather events to the State and National Offices.

SURE PROGRAM DEADLINE-2010 Crop Disaster Program ends June 1, 2012

Sign up for the 2010 SURE Program is coming to a close. To be eligible for this program, producers must have purchased at least the catastrophic risk insurance protection (CAT) for all insurable crops of economic significance and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage for non insurable crops for the 2010 crop year.

For SURE, a "farm" is eligible when:

- A portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration; or
- The actual revenue is less than 50% of the normal revenue

Please note....a "farm" refers to all crop acreage in the county/counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or farm livestock feeding. You must have suffered a 10 percent revenue loss on at least one crop of economic significance to be eligible for SURE

If you feel that you may qualify for this program, please contact your local FSA Office.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment.

If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Office in person or by phone.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producer's who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or a cost break down of new equipment.
- Pay a \$100.00 application fee.
- Purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops in the county where the facility is constructed.
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee.
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility.

Contact FSA for additional details.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion,

sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's incomes derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT... CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINES AND CHANGES.....

You are reminded that you must report your 2012 crops to Farm Service Agency by the following dates:

- WHEAT - June 30, 2012
- CORN - July 15, 2012
- SOYBEANS - July 15, 2012
- BARLEY - July 15, 2012
- OATS - July 15, 2012
- FORAGE - July 15, 2012
- SUGAR BEETS - July 15, 2012

Please contact FSA to schedule an appointment. Crops must be planted to accurately report.

CHANGES TO CROP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS....

Beginning in crop year 2013, the following crop reporting deadlines have been established to coincide with Risk Managements deadlines:

- Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches - January 15th
- Spring Barley, Cabbage (early variety), Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Green Peas, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Onions, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Tomatoes - July 15th
- Cabbage (mid-summer variety), Processing Beans - August 15th
- Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains - November 15th