



NEWSLETTER



August 2013

USDA Service Center
Chippewa/Mackinac/Luce
County FSA
2487 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783
906-632-9611 (phone)
906-632-0341 (fax)

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Brent Cottle
Scott Hill
Max Macaulay

Committee Advisor
Jeff Holt

Next County Committee Meeting
September 26, 2013
10:00 AM

County Executive Director
Kaye Hillock-Vining

Office Staff
Melissa Gabbard
Lynn MacArthur

Farm Loan Officer
Bruce Stephenson
906-428-1060

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INSURANCE DEADLINES

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county!

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at <http://www.lrfctool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

THE DEADLINE for purchasing your 2014 policies are as follows:

August 30, 2013: Aquaculture, Nursery Crops, Christmas Trees, & Grass Sod

September 30, 2013: Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Seed Crops, & Fall Speltz

November 20, 2013: Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, & Strawberries

December 1, 2013: Honey & Maple Sap

March 15, 2014: Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops, & Corn in some counties.

If you grow a crop not listed here – call your local FSA Service Center. Keep in mind that some of these crops are covered by Federal Crop Insurance in certain U.P. countries. In counties where alfalfa and mixed forage (AGM) are covered by crop insurance, FSA cannot sell a NAP policy for these types of forage when the seeding's are older than 6 years. Crops determined not insurable and not eligible for NAP do not need to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirement

REMEMBER – Without insurance you are NOT eligible for National Disaster Programs!



Bank Changes

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payments could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Appointments Encouraged

We recommend you call to make an appointment before coming to the office to conduct business. This will enable us to prepare any necessary paperwork & research any issues. This will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

FALL CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Producers Take Notice – All Perennial Forage (Hay and Pasture), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains need to be certified for the 2014 growing season by NOVEMBER 15, 2013.

2013 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

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.

County Committee (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 underrepresented 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.

Who Can Hold Office:

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

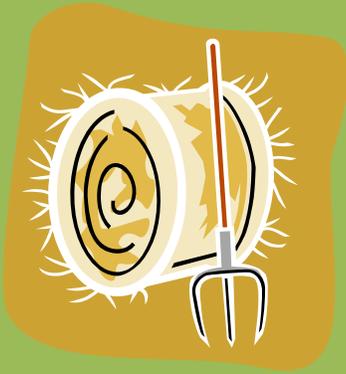
- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Have not 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.

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 may also 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." Call for more information.



Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website -

www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet.

This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need.

Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc. FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office.

PRODUCTION NEEDED!

Your 2013 production is needed. As you complete harvesting for the 2013 growing season, be sure to turn your production into your local FSA Service Center

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF GRAIN

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters, and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayers dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free email updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

August Loan Rates	
Farm Storage Facility Loans – 7 year	2.000%
10 year	2.625%
12 year	2.750%
Contact the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac County FSA office with any questions.	

Dates to Remember	
September 30	Deadline to purchase 2014 NAP policies for Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Fall Seeded Crops, & Fall Speltz
November 15	Deadline to certify all 2014 Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, & other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
November 20	Deadline to purchase 2014 NAP policies for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, Grapes, & Strawberries
December 1	Deadline to purchase 2014 NAP policies for Honey & Maple Sap
December 2	County Committee Election Ballots Due

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