

October 2012



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Delta-Schoolcraft-Alger-Marquette FSA Updates

Delta-Schoolcraft-Alger-Marquette County

FSA Office

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County Executive

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Loans

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Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers can contact the FSA Loan Staff in Gladstone, 906-428-1060 ext. 120 with any questions.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012 for those areas holding elections.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec. 3, 12.

2012 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops and forages has changed. The new acreage reporting date is Nov. 15, 2012. This applies to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat and forage crops. **Please call for an appointment to certify.**

Electronic Services Available

A producer that has Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services you need an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address & filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

USDA ANNOUNCES DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP FOR 2011 CROP LOSSES

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning Oct. 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

During 2011, several Michigan counties received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement.

Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Delta County FSA office at: 906-428-1060, ext. 2 or visit the SURE website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).