



March 2012

## **EMMET-CHARLEVOIX FARM SERVICE AGENCY County Office News**

### USDA Service Center

Emmet-Charlevoix FSA  
2235 E. Mitchell Rd.  
Petoskey, MI. 49770  
231-347-2133 (phone)  
231-347-8170 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

### Hours

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

### Website

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### County Committee

Wilson Boss  
Beverly Hinkley  
Richard Gregory  
Charlene Fettig-Advisor

### County Executive Director

Carmen Church

### Farm Loan Manager

James Monroe

### Office Staff

Jessica Chandler



### CRP General Sign-Up

There will be a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup which will begin on March 12, 2012 and end on April 6, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or go online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### DCP/ACRE Sign-Up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS: All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.



- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1 in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include:
  - Ownership changes
  - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

In general, producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) may not plant

- Fruits and/or
- Vegetables on base acres enrolled in DCP.

However Fruits and Vegetables may be planted:

- On a farm with a history of planting fruits and vegetables
- If the producer has an established history of planting a specific fruit or specific vegetable

DCP and ACRE payments will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to a fruit or vegetable.

## Appointments Recommended

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 and research issues before your appointment. This will reduce the amount of time that you have to wait in the office.

## Spousal Signatures

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. Spouses may sign loan documents only when an FSA Power of Attorney form is on file.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the office personally because of work schedules, distance, etc., FSA has a power of attorney (POA) form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business. This POA is only effective at the FSA office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

## LEASE REQUIREMENTS for DCP and ACRE CONTRACTS:

Leases must contain:

- The type of lease (cash, share, etc)
- Landowner name, signature, and date
- Farm operator name, signature and date
- Length of lease (list number of years)

\*a statement that allows the operator to combine the land with other land he/she works, is helpful (not required), especially if you plant dry beans or other FAV's.

## NAP Enrollment

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Presque Isle and Cheboygan County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: (989) 733-2694.

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm, because of disaster-related conditions, is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

## Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://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.



## Bank Account Changes

All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it. Producers need to notify us when bank accounts change to prevent a delay in payments.



The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management;

The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

## FSA Payment Record 1099-G

Producers who have received payments from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.



EMMET-CHARLEVOIX COUNTY 2011 COMMODITY LOAN RATES	
CROP	LOAN RATE
BARLEY	\$1.80
CORN	\$1.77
OATS	\$1.38
SOYBEANS	\$4.86
RED WHEAT	\$2.03
WHITE WHEAT	\$2.18

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

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.

## Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are over-filled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

## GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

## 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 the county office before you haul any grain under loan.

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The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.



Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, CREP
Continues	Farm Storage/Facility Loan
Continues	Crop Disaster Program (SURE) Signup for 2010 for Quality and Quantity losses
Mar 15	NAP sales closing date for many crops, check with the office for a listing
April 2	Final date to request 2011 wheat loans or LDP's
May 31	Final date to request 2011 corn and soybean loans
June 1	Final date to enroll in the 2012 DCP/ACRE programs

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to 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.