

January 2014



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Emmet-Charlevoix County FSA Updates

Emmet-Charlevoix County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Carmen A. Church

Farm Loan Manager:
James Monroe

Program Technician:
Jessica Chandler

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** April 8, 2014 @ 9:30
a.m.

Emmet and Charlevoix County is Eligible for Emergency Loans

Emmet and Charlevoix county have been designated as a natural disaster area where eligible family farmers may qualify for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans due to losses caused by excessive rain and cooler than normal temperatures that occurred during the period of April 1, 2013 and continuing. (Secretarial Disaster Designation S3622)

Charlevoix county was declared a contiguous disaster due to losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain that occurred April 1, 2013 through July 29, 2013, returning October 15, 2013 and continuing, and drought that occurred from July 30, 2013 through October 15, 2013 and cooler than normal temperatures which spanned the entire disaster period. (Secretarial Disaster Designation S3636)

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report these changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

Production for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers who have a NAP policy are reminded to submit their 2013 production to the county office as soon as possible. This is a requirement of the NAP program and the production is used to calculate your 2014 approved yield.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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).