

February 2014



NEWSLETTER



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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 Technicians:
Jessica Chandler

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** April 8, 2014 at 9:30
am

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Wilson (Bud) Boss for being re-elected to his 2nd consecutive term as a County Committee member representing farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 covering Charlevoix, Norwood, Marion, Eveline, Peaine, St. James, South Arm, Wilson, and Boyne Valley in Charlevoix county.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method - the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method – may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

DCP Cropland Method - the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method - the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Contact the county office for more information concerning reconstitutions.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. To remain eligible for NAP assistance, crop acreage must be reported annually. Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding local acreage reporting and final planting dates.

Application for Coverage:

March 15, 2014 is the last day for producers to apply for coverage on 2014 Spring planted crops using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the FSA county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, the deadline date for 2014 spring planted crops.

The service fee applied to the program is \$250 per crop per county, or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

Production:

Production records for all 2013 NAP covered crops must be reported to FSA no later than the latest acreage reporting deadline for the state which is August 15, 2014. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

Reporting Nap Losses:

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster, or when losses become apparent.

The CCC-576 Notice of Loss is used to report low yield, failed acreage and prevented planting, and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all Nap covered crops including grasses.

FSA reminds producers who are first-time NAP participants with coverage for the 2014 crop year of production and reporting requirements. These producers need to submit a minimum of four, up to ten years of production in order to establish their 2014 approved yield.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA website located at www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

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 shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Controlled Substance

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and countercyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction

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).