

March 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Emmet/Charlevoix County FSA Updates

Emmet/Charlevoix County FSA Office

2235 E. Mitchell Rd.
Petoskey, MI. 49770

Phone: 231-347-2133
Fax: 855-665-9280 (*new*)

County Executive Director:
Carmen Church

Farm Loan Manager:
James Monroe

Program Technicians:
Jessica Chandler

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

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill . For an FSA program overview, please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Producers are urged to visit Emmet/Charlevoix County FSA and update their Farm Records

Emmet/Charlevoix County FSA office urges producers to call and make an appointment to update your farm records. These include but are not limited to operators or owners who:

- Have bought or sold land,
- Created a trust or LLC for your land,
- Changed your entity, (Example: individual to an LLC, partnership to and individual or LLC.),

- Constructed a home, barn, or buildings on land in which you previously farmed,
- A change in your shares on a specific farm,
- Banking changes (Has your bank changed names or do you have a new account number?)

Producers must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase/re-recorded 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. Taking time now to update record changes will save time in the spring.

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.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas
- Hay

- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

A series of improvements to the program have been developed to better tailor loans to finance on-farm storage and handling for small and mid-sized farms. The changes also for the first time allow FSFL's to cover the structure and equipment required to get fruits and vegetables washed, treated and packed along with cold storage.

The area of a structure required to house eligible handling equipment is eligible, in addition to the cold storage space. The handling equipment needs for fruit and vegetable producers are unique, based on the farming operation. Crops must go through certain processes before they can be placed in cold storage for quality to be maintained. Because of this the following equipment is also eligible for loan as long as it is permanently affixed.

- boxers and baggers
- washers, waxers and polishers
- bulk bin tippers
- case palletizers
- cold dip tanks
- fruit/vegetable conveyors
- food safety-related equipment (for example, sanitizers or pre-washing filter tanks)
- hydrocoolers
- ice machines
- quality graders
- sealants, sizers, sorting bins/tables

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Production Reporting Deadline for 2013 NAP

Producers who had NAP coverage in 2013 are responsible for providing accurate and complete production information.

Deadline for reporting production is the latest acreage reporting deadline for the State. Please bring your production records when visiting the Emmet/Charlevoix County FSA office to report your harvested production in 2013.

Failure to provide production may have an adverse effect on your Actual Production History (APH).

Preventing Fraud

To prevent fraud, waste, and abuse Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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).

