

April 2013



Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska FSA Updates

Grand Traverse Area FSA Office

1501 Cass Street, Ste A
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-941-0951
Fax: 855-292-1667

County Executive Director:
Gregory Shy

Farm Loan Manager:
James L. Monroe

Program Technicians:
Caleb Boge
Janet Howes
Jan Malik

County Committee:
Brent Wagner - Chair
David Noonan - Vice-chair
Bruce Cotton
Joanne Gallagher
Stanley Silverman
Jaunita Send - Advisor

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 20th** - 45th CRP Sign-up begins
- **May 27th** - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- **May 31st** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grain, oilseed loan or LDP
- **April 29th** - Final date to apply for an **Emergency Loan** based on disaster S3370 - Summer 2012 Drought and Excessive Heat
- **June 3rd** - 2013 ACRE Sign-up ends
- **June 7th** - 2011 SURE Sign-up ends
- **June 14th** - CRP Sign-up ends
- **June 30th** - Final date for late-filed certifications for fall-2012 seeded crops, Hay, and Mixed Forage
- **July 15th** - Final date to certify spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **July 15th** - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program
- **August 2nd** - 2013 DCP Sign-up ends
- **September 30th** - Final date to certify Christmas Trees, Nursery, and Turfgrass Sod

ACRE/DCP Sign-up Continues

ACRE and DCP sign-up for 2013 crops is on-going. The ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013; and the DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon can be fatal. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

New Crop Certification Deadlines

2013 Crop Year and Continuing

Due to changes in program provisions it is even more important for producers to timely file crop acreage reports on their farms.

Crop acreage reports are essential to maintain eligibility for multiple FSA programs, and to establish a record of historical cropping. Farm Bill legislation continues the crop reporting requirement.

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares. Prevented planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date. Failed acres must be reported to FSA within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent for non-insurable crops, or otherwise prior to disposition of the crop.

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops

- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod

Late Fees:

Due to changes in program provisions for timely-filed crop reports, late fees for 2013 Crop Year Certifications will be waived. No such provision currently exists for the following crop year, **beginning with the November 15, 2013** deadline for 2014 Crop Year Perennial Forage certifications.

CRP Sign-Up Starts Soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract, which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact the Farm Loan staff at (231) 941 - 0951.

Read how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

[Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#)
[Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

Selected Interest Rates for April 2013

90-Day Treasury Bill; 0.125%

Farm Operating Loans — Direct; 1.375%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct; 3.50%

Emergency Loans; 2.375%

Farm Ownership-Limited Resource Loans; 5.00%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher; 1.50%

Farm Storage Facility Loans; 1.375% (7 yrs), 2.0% (10 yrs), 2.25% (12 yrs)

Commodity Loans 1996-Present; 1.125%

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