

May 2013



## Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau FSA Updates

Please Respond! The Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau FSA office is conducting an informal readership poll of this newsletter! Please send an email with your name and county in the subject line to the County Executive Director, Gregory Shy, at: [greg.shy@mi.usda.gov](mailto:greg.shy@mi.usda.gov) Please feel free to include your comments and suggestions as the Agency transitions to this electronic newsletter format.

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Bruce Cotton - Member  
Joanne Gallagher - Member  
Stanley Silverman - Member  
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
- **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 for the 2013 Crop Year
- **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

## Timely Filed FSA-576 Notice Of Loss

Various portions of the Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau regions experienced freezing temperatures over the weekend of May 11 - 13, 2013. Affected producers are reminded that FSA-576, Notice Of Loss, must be filed within 15 days that a disaster event becomes apparent.

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded 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 commercially available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date (varies by crop).

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## 45th CRP General Sign-Up

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20, 2013 and ending June 14, 2013. CRP has a 27-year legacy of protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Since the 1980's, the CRP program has established itself as a benchmark in voluntary conservation efforts, providing American producers with resources and technical assistance to address our most critical resource issues. Last year, during one of the worst droughts in generations, the CRP proved vital in protecting our most environmentally sensitive lands from erosion. Emergency haying and grazing on CRP lands also supplied critical feed and forage for livestock producers due to the drought. The program continues to bring substantial returns to rural areas, attracting recreation and tourism dollars into local economies while sustaining natural and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs - such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife - will be announced in the spring of 2013.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the USDA's largest private-lands voluntary conservation program. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits. Certain practices are available on a continuous basis; however, it has been since 2010 when the last competitive general CRP signup took place. Producers can offer land for the CRP general signup May 20th through June 14, 2013.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP signup, June 14, 2013. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality
- increased soil quality
- reduced soil erosion
- increased air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance.

Don't miss this opportunity! Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

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

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## DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end June 3, 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.

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## 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.

## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers 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 jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

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

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Selected Interest Rates for May 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; 1.25% (7 yrs.), 1.875% (10 yrs.), 2.125% (12 yrs.)

Commodity Loans 1996-Present; 1.125%

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