

August 2013



Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau 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
Phone: 231-941-0951

Program Technicians:
Caleb Boge
Janet Howes
Jan Malik

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

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** September
11, 2013
at 9:30 am

Important Dates to Remember

- **September 2nd** - Office closed in observance of Labor Day
 - **September 16th** - Final date for late-filed 2013 Crop Reports
 - **September 30th** - Final date to certify Christmas Trees, Nursery, and Turfgrass Sod
 - **November 4th** - Election ballots mailed to eligible voters.
 - **November 15th** - Last day to report your **2014** Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, and Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded fall grains. *
 - **November 20th** - Final day to purchase 2014 NAP coverage for perennial orchard crops
 - **December 2nd** - Last day to return completed ballots to your local FSA office.
 - **January 1, 2014** - Newly elected county committee members take office.
 - **January 15, 2014** - Final date to certify perennial orchard crops including Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, Juneberries, and Saskatoons.
- * **NOTE:** Beginning with the **November 15, 2013** certification deadline for **2014** Crop Year Fall-seeded Small Grains and Perennial Forage certifications, a late filing fee will be assessed on crops certified after their respective reporting deadlines.

2014 NAP Availability for Cherry Producers

2014 NAP Coverage - Producers now have a choice!

Grand Traverse and Leelanau County Sweet Cherry and Tart Cherry producers now have the option of purchasing NAP coverage through FSA or an Actual Revenue History policy through FCIC; or both!

Due to changes in program provisions it is even more important for producers to purchase insurance on their crops. The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available for 2014 crops for which catastrophic level crop (CAT) insurance **is not** available through FCIC. FCIC CAT-level insurable crops are Apples, Barley, Corn, Soy Beans, Oats, Snap Beans, and Wheat.

All other crops are insurable at a catastrophic level under NAP. The NAP deadline for 2014 perennial fruit crops is **November 20, 2012**.

The cost is \$250 per crop with a maximum of \$750 per county and \$1,875 per producer for multi-county producers.

REMEMBER – Without crop insurance or NAP on all significant crops, you may NOT be eligible for National Disaster Programs.

Important Reminder about 2014 Wheat Crop!

The date has changed! As of 2013, producers are required to certify wheat and forage crops by **November 15, 2013** to avoid a **late file fee** of \$46 per farm. This includes all **planted 2014 wheat, all previously seeded forage (ex: alfalfa, mixed hay), and any other fall-seeded crop**. The reporting deadline has been revised to coincide with crop insurance reporting deadlines. Please be aware that the November 15th deadline applies even if you do not carry crop insurance coverage.

Planning on Tiling or Clearing Trees?

Unauthorized tiling or clearing of trees in a wetland area may jeopardize your eligibility and ALL of your USDA payments! These are just a few of the activities that are not permitted on wetland areas. If you are planning to perform any land leveling, filling, dredging, draining, excavation, land clearing, or stump removal that has not been evaluated by NRCS, come and file the necessary documentation at the FSA office ASAP.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

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.

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).