

October 2013



Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County FSA Updates

Grand Traverse Area FSA Office

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

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** December 5, 2013
at 9:00 AM

Important Dates to Remember

- **November 4th** - Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **November 11th** - Office closed in observance of Veterans Day
- **November 15th** - Final day to report your **2014** Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, and Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains. This revised reporting date now coincides with Risk Management's crop reporting date. **Please 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.
- **November 20th** - Final day to purchase **2014** NAP coverage for: Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries
- **December 1st** - Final day to purchase 2014 NAP coverage for Honey and Maple Sap
- **December 2nd** - Last day to return or mail (must be postmarked December 2) completed ballots to your local FSA office
- **December 5th** - County Committee election ballots counted at 9:00 AM at the local Farm Service Agency Service Center
- **January 1st** - Newly elected county committee members take office
- **January 15th** - Final day to submit 2013 production data for APH purposes
- **January 15th** - Final date to certify perennial orchard crops including Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Juneberries (Saskatoons), Peaches, Plums, and Strawberries

Reminder: Submit Your Production Evidence for 2013 NAP

FSA reminds new and existing 2014 NAP participants with coverage for the 2014 crop year of NAP Program annual production and reporting requirements. New producers need to submit a minimum of three, up to ten years of production in order to establish their 2014 approved yield. Existing producers are reminded to submit their 2013 production before the deadline of January 15, 2014.

At this point, a new farm bill has not been enacted. In the event that a farm bill is enacted in upcoming months, County Offices will be faced with the task of implementing a new farm bill while completing the collection of information required for the administration of the NAP Program. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if producers submit 2013 harvest production well in advance of the reporting deadline.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PAYMENTS

Direct and Counter Cyclical Payments (DCP) have been issued for participating Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County producers. These payments will be directly deposited into the bank accounts on file and producers can expect to see these deposits in their accounts by November 1st. If these payments do not show up into your accounts by then, please call the County Office so we can research the issue. **Please note:** the payment amount has been reduced by 8.6% due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 (sequestration).

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM PAYMENTS

As with the DCP payments, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments have been processed for all participating Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County CRP participants. Please check your bank account to verify that you received these payments. CRP payments will not be reduced since the Conservation Reserve Program is one of very few programs considered to be exempt from sequestration reductions.

CHANGING BANKS???

It is important producers notify us if their bank account changes from what we have on file (new accounts, switch banks, etc.). Otherwise, there could be a significant delay in receiving payments. All FSA payments are to be made by direct deposit unless there is a financial hardship to prevent it.

Selected Interest Rates - November 2013

- 90-Day Treasury Bill: **0.125%**
- Farm Operating Loans - Direct: **2.125%**
- Farm Ownership Loans - Direct: **4.250%**
- Farm Ownership Loans - Joint Financing: **5.000%**
- Limited Resource Loans: **5.000%**
- Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Pymt: **1.500%**
- Emergency Loans: **3.125%**
- Farm Storage Facility Loans:
 - 7 Yr. - **2.000%**
 - 10 Yr. - **2.625%**
 - 12 Yr. - **2.875%**

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