

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



- [Gratiot County Eligible for Emergency Loans](#)
- [2013 Production for ACRE Farms](#)
- [GovDelivery Customers Are NOT Affected by the Heartbleed Bug](#)
- [May Interest Rates](#)
- [Important Dates to Remember](#)
- [Now at FSA](#)

Gratiot County FSA Updates

Gratiot County

301 Commerce Drive,
Ithaca, MI 48847-1602

Phone: (989) 875-3900
Fax: (855) 647-4851

County Executive Director:
Steve Markley

Program Technicians:
Ben Belkholm
Melissa Dettloff
Jeff Pearsall
Kay Perkins

Farm Loan Officer:
Gerald Wagler

Program Technician:
Teri Hedrick

Gratiot County Committee:
Scott Apple
Doreen Slavik
Andrea Ackels

Next County Committee Meeting:
August 27th at 8:00 am

Gratiot County Eligible for Emergency Loans

Gratiot County was declared a primary disaster county due to physical damage and losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, high winds, hail, lightning and tornado like conditions that occurred from April 12, 2014 through April 15, 2014. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration (until January 5, 2015) to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Other eligibility requirements apply.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit our website on [Emergency Loans](#).

2013 Production for ACRE Farms

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for the covered commodities planted on the farm by July 15, 2014. Failure to report production for those covered commodities planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination. If the contract is terminated, all payments, including direct payments previously received plus interest, will be required to be refunded.

GovDelivery Customers Are NOT Affected by the Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

May Interest Rates

90 Day Treasury Bill - 0.125%
Farm Operating Loan - Direct - 2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 4.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Joint Financing - 2.500%
Limited Resource Loans - 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Pymt - 1.500%
Emergency Loans - 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Yr. - 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Yr. - 2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 12 Yr. - 2.875%
Commodity Loans - 1.125%

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

Important Dates to Remember

May 20 - Final planting date for Oats and Sugar Beets *(Final date to file prevented planting - June 4)*

May 26 - FSA office closed for Memorial Day holiday

May 31 - Final planting date for spring Barley *(Final date to file prevented planting - June 15)*

May 31 - Last day to request commodity loan for corn or soybeans

June 5 - Final planting date for Corn *(Final date to file prevented planting - June 20)*

June 15 - Final planting date for Soybeans *(Final date to file prevented planting - June 30)*

July 4 - FSA office closed for Independence Day holiday

July 15 - Deadline to report most spring-seeded crops

August 1 - Final date for County Offices to receive FSA-669A's, County Committee nomination form

Now at FSA

The 2014 Farm Bill was approved on February 7th 2014. Some programs have been renewed, others have ended, some have changed, and several new programs are on their way.

Expired programs that have ended for Gratiot County producers as of 2014:

- DCP (Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program) and ACRE
- SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program) for losses after September 30, 2011

Current active programs for Gratiot County producers:

- [NAP](#) (Non-Insured Assistance Program) for select fruits, vegetables, and forage
- [MILC](#) (Milk Income Loss Contract)
- [LFP](#) (Livestock Forage Program)
- [LIP](#) (Livestock Indemnity Program)
- [ELAP](#) (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program)
- [TAP](#) (Tree Assistance Program)
- [MAL](#) (Marketing Assistance Loans) for crop year 2014
- [FSFL](#) (Farm Storage Facility Loan Program)
- [Farm Loans](#)

If you need any additional information on these programs, please follow the hyperlinks above or contact our office.

What producers should be doing now:

The next step for most producers will be:

- REPORTING farm changes **NOW**.

Contact your FSA office NOW to report any of the following operational changes:

- Picked up new land
- Farms you longer operate
- Business changes to your operation
- Alterations to field boundaries
- New land you wish to clear or farm.

These changes must be processed **BEFORE** acreage reporting to avoid errors and/or delays.

Once all farm changes have been processed and you've finished planting your crops, be sure to call your FSA office to set up an appointment to **report/certify your crops before July 15, 2014** ([keep track of your planting dates](#)).

Look out for future news regarding these farm bill programs:

- ARC/PLC (Agricultural Revenue Coverage/Price Loss Coverage) programs
- CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)