

July 2012



Hillsdale County FSA Updates

Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Hillsdale County FSA Office

Address:

588 Olds St., Bldg. 2
Jonesville, MI 49250-9804

Phone: 517-849-9890 X 2

Fax: 517-849-9895

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

County Executive

Director:

Linda Kline

Program Technicians:

Nina Draper
Brad Everline
Cindy Gabbard
Angela Lanius

Farm Loan Manager:

Russ Lafollette

Farm Loan Officer:

Crystal Hepker

Farm Loan Program Technicians:

Joann VanDeusen
Deb Wheeler

County Committee (COC)

Sheryl Kies, Chairman
Tom Schroeder, Vice Chair
David Godfrey, Member

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1, 2012, deadline.

Nominations will be accepted from producers and owners in LAA2 which consists of Adams, Jefferson, Pittsford, Wheatland, and Wright Townships. This position is currently held by David Godfrey. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for Spring Seeded Crops is July 16, 2012. All Fall seeded crops, including Wheat need to be reported by July 2, 2012.

COC meetings are held quarterly. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Visit FSA on the web! <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

In the coming months, FSA will begin to use scanners to process all checks that are received in local county offices. These new scanners will process collections electronically. This means that funds will be pulled more quickly from accounts on which the checks are drawn. This new process is expected to begin in early August. The format we will be using is called OTCnet.

OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do not have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Tell Your Neighbors

Please help us spread the word and keep your neighbors informed of important deadlines and news. Due to budget constraints, we have moved to a paperless delivery of newsletters. While this change has been well received by many of you, there are still those who will not have easy access to the internet to get program updates. We will do our best to keep you informed and we hope you will help us get the word out. Thank you!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).
