

January 2013



## Hillsdale County FSA Updates

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### Hillsdale County FSA Office

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**County Committee (COC)**

Sheryl Kies, Chairman

Tom Schroeder, Vice Chair

David Godfrey, Member

### Attention Farm Loan Borrowers

Producers who have farm loans with FSA are reminded that you must provide data for a Year End Analysis (YEA) to your loan officer each year. FSA will be contacting you via mail regarding the needed information. Operating Loan Program funds remain available at this time. Farm Ownership Funds have been exhausted; however applications are placed on the waiting list in the order that they are received.

New Program Information: FSA recently added a Microloan Program to the types of assistance we offer. Microloans focus on smaller operations that would require less than \$35,000 of operating assistance and FSA involvement. Also for existing customers; FSA is now offering a Streamlined Annual Operating Loan. For further information regarding Farm Loan Programs please contact us at 517-849-9890 ext 2. You can find a fact sheet at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/microloans\\_eng\\_jan2013.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/microloans_eng_jan2013.pdf)

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### USDA Urges Producers to Complete and Return the 2012 Census of Agriculture

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mailed the 2012 Census of Agriculture during the last week of December and is asking for the help of farmers and ranchers in collecting accurate data.

The Census of Agriculture is only conducted once every five years and captures a count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them. Everyone who receives a Census form is required to return the Census form, even if they no longer farm or have never been involved in agriculture. Retired operators who own land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are counted as farms and should complete the Census form.

Results of the Census are used by USDA, university research and extension, state and local officials, agribusinesses, farm organizations and commodity groups to make important policy and business decisions that impact people across the nation.

Please return the Census by February 4, 2013. Information reported by producers is confidential. The results of the Census show the strength and diversity of U.S. agriculture.

Your answers to the Census can help grow your farm future, shape farm programs and boost services for you, your community and your industry.

For questions or help completing the Census, contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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## **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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## **Controlled Substance**

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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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 20250-9450, 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).