

February 2013



## Hillsdale County FSA Updates

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### Hillsdale County FSA Office

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Jonesville, MI 49250

Phone: 517-849-9890 X 2

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#### 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:

Debra Wheeler

Joann VanDeusen

### DCP and ACRE Sign-up

We are accepting appointments for DCP and ACRE sign up. The ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013 and the DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche, and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months of when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Operating Loan rates.

For more information follow this link: [Microloan Fact Sheet](#) or call the Jonesville FSA Office at 517-849-9890 X 2

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## Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## Dates to Remember

- **March 15th** - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops including sweet corn, pumpkins and most vegetables
- **March 15th** - Final date to purchase FCIC crop insurance for annual crops
- **March 25th** - Final date for Women and Hispanic farmers and ranchers claim period
- **March 31st** - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP
- **May 20th** - General CRP sign-up begins
- **May 27th** - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- **May 31st** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP
- **June 7th** - 2011 SURE Sign-up deadline
- **June 14th** - General CRP sign-up ends

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## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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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).