

April 2013



## Hillsdale County FSA Updates

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### Hillsdale County FSA Office

588 Olds St., Bldg 2  
Jonesville, MI 49250  
Office Hours: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone: 517-849-9890 X 2  
Fax: 517-849-9895

**County Executive Director:**  
Linda Kline

**Program Technicians:**  
Nina Draper  
Brad Everline  
Cindy Gabbard  
Angela Lanius

**County Committee:**  
Sheryl Kies - Chair  
David Godfrey - Vice Chair  
Tom Schroeder - Member  
Cami Marz-Evans - Advisor

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Russ Lafollette  
**Farm Loan Officer**  
Crystal Hepker

**Farm Loan Program Technicians**  
Deb Wheeler  
Joann VanDeusen

### CRP Sign-Up Starts soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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### Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

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### Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact Russ Lafollette or Crystal Hepker at the Hillsdale County FSA Office.

Read how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.  
[Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#)  
[Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

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## Acreage Certification

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the November 15th deadline on fall seeded grains and hay and a July 15th deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of November 15 for small grains and hay and July 15th for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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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).