

May 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  
Angela Lanius  
Cindy Gabbard

#### 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

### General CRP Sign-Up Starts May 20th

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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### Farm Record Change

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office to update your file.

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### Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.

- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

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## Online Data Tool for Public

The USDA Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Program Statistics query tool, known as REGStats, is the official new tool of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for making program application and participation rate data available to the public on the Internet.

The REGStats website provides summary information about the number of individuals and entities that apply for, and receive, federal assistance from four USDA agencies or mission areas – the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development (RD), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The information available in REGStats includes the number of applicants and recipients, by fiscal year, for USDA programs available to agricultural producers and landowners, categorized by race, ethnicity, and gender. Summary totals may be obtained nationally, or by state and county for the 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories.

Visit the online site: <http://www.regstats.usda.gov>

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## Dates to Remember

**May 13** – Continuous CRP Sign-Up Begins

**May 20th - June 14th** - General CRP Sign-Up 45

**May 27** - Office closed for Memorial Day

**June 3rd** - Deadline for 2013 ACRE Sign-Up

**June 7th** - Deadline to submit 2011 SURE applications

**June 20th** - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn

**June 30th** - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for soybeans

**July 15th** - Final crop certification date for all crops (including CRP and GRP), except fall seeded small grains and perennial forage including hay and pasture

**July 15th** - Deadline for reporting 2012 production for enrolled ACRE farms

**August 2nd** - Deadline for 2013 DCP Sign-Up

**November 15th** - Final crop certification date for all fall seeded small grains and perennial forage including hay and pasture

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).