

July 2013



Hillsdale County FSA Updates

Hillsdale County FSA Office

588 Olds St., Bldg 2
Jonesville, MI 49250

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 Meetings are held Quarterly.
Next Meeting: Sept. 10, 2013
Time: 8:30 A.M.

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

Farm Loan Manager:
Russ LaFollette
Phone: 517-849-9890

Farm Loan Officer:
Crystal Hepker

Farm Loan Program Technicians:
Joann VanDeusen
Deb Wheeler

Deadline to Accept Nominations for County Committee August 1st

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

This year's election will be for eligible voters in: Amboy, Cambria, Camden, Ransom, Reading, and Woodbridge.

For more information contact the Hillsdale County FSA Office.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements

Crop Reporting

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.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. In general, the final reporting dates in Michigan are:

- November 15 - small grains and hay
- July 15 - All other crops

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP may be due at different times. Call the office if you are unsure.

For 2013, you may report your crops without a late file fee if you report by September 15, 2013, unless you are reporting prevented planting.

Call your local FSA Office for an appointment.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans on wheat and other crops. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity, and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan.

The Interest Rate for July Marketing Assistance Loans is: 1.125%

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).