

July 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Hillsdale County FSA Updates

Hillsdale County FSA Office

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Don Girdham - Member
Cami Marz-Evans - Advisor

Farm Loan Manager:
Russ LaFollette

Farm Loan Officer:
Crystal Hepker

Farm Loan Program Technicians:
Joann VanDeusen
Deb Wheeler

Next County Committee Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 8:30 AM

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) Available on Wheat

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. 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. The interest rate for July is 1.125 percent. Crop certification is required.

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, even if you regain beneficial interest.

The 2014 loan rate for Soft Red Winter Wheat stored in Hillsdale County is: \$2.55 per bushel.

More information is available on the [Commodity Loans web page](#) or call the office at 517-849-9890 ext. 2.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

For more information call the Hillsdale County Office at 517-849-9890 ext. 2 or visit the [Farm Loan Programs Web Page](#).

CRP Continuous, SAFE and CREP

Producers may be eligible to enroll cropland or expiring CRP into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Current CRP ongoing signups include Continuous, SAFE, and CREP. There are specific planting requirements depending on the eligible signup.

CRP pays agricultural producers to use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. CRP addresses erosion problems, provides improved wildlife habitat, and promotes better water, soil, and air quality.

Participants in CRP receive a rental payment each year. Rental rates are competitive with current cropland lease rates. With these types of sign-ups, participants can receive up to 100% reimbursement for money spent on establishing specific ground cover and planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. CRP contracts are binding for 10 to 15 years.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months. In addition, land must have been cropped for the majority of the years from 2008 to 2013. There are special provisions for land that has been planted to hay or has been enrolled in CRP.

For more information on CRP or other conservation programs call the office at 517-849-9890 ext. 2 or visit the [FSA Conservation Program Web Page](#).

2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must Be Filed By August 1, 2014 for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the ELAP Fact Sheet on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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).