

September 2012



Huron County FSA Updates

Huron County Farm Service Agency

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Huron County Committee

Ken Koroleski, Chairman
Chris Grekowitz, Vice Chair
Robert Krohn, Member
Lisa Szymanski, Advisor

Welcome Deborah Van Erp

We are pleased to welcome a new addition to our local FSA staff- Deborah Van Erp- who will be working as the Farm Records Program Technician for the farmers in Huron County.

Mrs. Van Erp obtained her Bachelors degree in Animal Science and a Masters degree in crop & soil science from Michigan State University. She joins the Huron County office having served 8 years at the Caro offices of Michigan Sugar. Welcome Debi!

Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)

USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized MILC through Sept. 30, 2012. The July MILC payment rate is \$1.6381734 per cwt.

Eligible producers should continue to submit their current MILC statements to the local FSA office for payment. Final production evidence for program payment **must** be received in the County Office by **November 1, 2012**.
Main column

Emergency Loans

Multiple disaster declarations are in effect for Huron County making Emergency Loans available for producers in the area. To be eligible, a farm must have suffered at least a 30% loss in one of its major crops due to one of the declared disaster events and unable to obtain financing from a commercial lender (other eligibility requirements may apply). The current Emergency Loan interest rate is 2.125% with a term ranging from 1-7 years depending on repayment ability. If you have questions, please contact our office.



Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- **Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;**
- **Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;**
- **Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.**

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, **must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026**. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at

www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Dates to Remember

September 30 - ACRE deadline to designate planted acres

October 8 - Office closed in observance of Columbus Day

November 1 - Final day to submit milk receipts for MILC program

November 6 - Election Day

November 12 - Office Closed in observance of Veteran's Day

November 15 - Crop reporting deadline for perennial forages and fall planted crops

November 22 - Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact your office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. In some instances, such as with market assistance (stored commodity) loans, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

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).