



NEWSLETTER



April 2012

Ingham/Livingston FSA Office

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This and future
newsletters can be viewed
at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Terrence Butler- Chairman
Peter Crawford
Gary Hoisington
Larry Minnis
Russell Oesterle
Jeanine Igl- Advisor

Ingham/Livingston County Staff

Joanna Rogers PT
Loans, DCP

Gretchen Wasper PT
Farm Records

Karen Vozarik
Conservation, MILC

County Committee Advisor

Ingham/Livingston FSA County Office Committee (COC) has just named Jeanine Igl of Mason, MI as COC Advisor. As the COC Advisor she will be a voice for under-represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the community. County committee members and their county executive directors, reach out to producer groups who are under-represented on county committees to find the right person to serve as Advisor. Ms. Igl will join the Ingham/Livingston COC at their June meeting.

Advisors serve for a 12 month period not to exceed nine consecutive years. They attend each COC meeting, including executive sessions and they participate. One of their primary responsibilities is to increase awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections. They help develop interest and incentives for socially disadvantaged group members to consider FSA work as a career. Advisors also solicit candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process.

New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. This initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website

(<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through **June 1, 2012**. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1 in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include:

- oOwnership changes
- oProducer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- oChange in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Come Visit us at Ag-Expo!

For more information about these and other FSA Programs please stop by our booth at this year's MSU Ag Expo, July 17-19. Go to

www.agexpo.msu.edu for more details.

We hope to see you there!

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

Sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through **June 1, 2012**. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management;

- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

NAP Enrollment

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Ingham and Livingston County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: 517-676-4644 Ext 2.

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not

available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

1099-G

Producers who have received payments from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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 expenses or help purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

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 a group.

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

Dates to Remember

May 28- Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31- final date to obtain loans or LDP's on harvested feed grains and soybeans for the proceeding crop year
June 1 – Deadline to enroll in 2012 DCP and ACRE
June 1- Deadline to enroll in 2010 SURE
June 1- Deadline to submit farm changes for participating farms.
June 20- Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for current year corn
June 30- Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for current year soybeans
June 30- Final date to report fall seeded small grains

July 4 – Office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 15 – Deadline to report all spring seeded crops, CRP and grazing land

July 15- Deadline to submit ACRE Yields for 2011

June 30- Deadline for reporting previous crop year's NAP crop production

Aug 1 – Last day to request a farm combination or division for non-participating farms.

Continues – Farm Storage Facility Loans

Continues – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program & CRP-SAFE

GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

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