

July 2012



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Ingham/Livingston County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Ingham/Livingston County **EMERGENCY HAYING & GRAZING CRP**

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The Secretary of Agriculture has recently announced that specific practices on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are eligible for Emergency Haying and Grazing due to the recent drought conditions.

2012 Emergency Haying or Grazing requirements:

- A request form must be signed by each participant on the CRP contract
- A modified Conservation Plan must be developed
- Written approval by FSA prior to activities being started
- A 10% payment reduction will be assessed on the acreage hayed/grazed
- Eligible producers will receive a letter and guideline instructions

2012 Emergency Haying Guidelines

- Begins **August 1st, 2012** and ends **August 31st, 2012**
- CRP contract participants may sell the hay that is harvested
- Maximum of 50% of each CRP field may be harvested
- Haying limited to one (1) cutting
- All production must be removed from the fields by **September 15th, 2012**

2012 Emergency Grazing Guidelines

- Begins **August 1st, 2012** and ends **September 30th, 2012**
- Maximum 75% of each CRP field may be grazed or graze at 75% carrying capacity

An alternative option is Managed Hay and Grazing, and it may be available to you for your CRP acres.

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the **Aug. 1, 2012, deadline**. Areas up for reelection in the Ingham/Livingston Committee are LAA # 1 (Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Locke, Wheatfield, and Leroy Townships) and LAA# 4 (Conway, Cohoctah, Deerfield, Tyrone, Oceola and Hartland Townships).

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteeelectform.pdf

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. The Ingham/Livingston Committee consists of five members who are elected by eligible local producers in Ingham and Livingston Counties.

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

DISASTER CONDITIONS

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers who have recently experienced severe damage from drought, that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. .

MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm.

Eligible producers should submit their current milk statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. New producers are encouraged to apply for the program before Sept. 30, 2012.

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

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.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive

The 4th Annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive is underway in USDA Service Centers nationwide. In 2010 & 2011, employees from Ingham County Service Centers FSA, NRCS, and RD offices in Mason donated over 190 pounds of non-perishable food items to the local food bank.

Over the past year, the tri-county area alone had over a 20% increase in requests for help. The local food banks and shelters simply cannot keep up. The 2012 food drive has begun and we would like to invite everyone in the

community to participate along with us by donating non-perishable food items or household goods. If you would like to contribute, you can drop items off in the collection barrels located in the FSA & RD offices at the Mason Service Center by Friday, August 31.

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).