

April, 2012



Ionia County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Ionia 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.

Ionia County FSA Office

431 Swartz Ct, Ste 300
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: 616-527-2098
Fax: 616-527-9055

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Ionia County Committee:

Steven Buche, Chairman
Jeffery Sandborn, Vice
Chair
Ronald Brownell, Member
Allison Badder, Advisor

Farm Program Staff:

Jenifer A. Taylor, CED
William Brandt, PT
Carolyn Lindberg, PT
Diana Graef, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Paul E. Wagner, FLM
Sara Possehn, FLO
Vicki Carr, PT

2012 DCP and ACRE Program Sign Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) began on Jan. 23, 2012. **The last day for producers to sign up for either program will be June 1, 2012. All signatures of producers receiving a share in DCP and ACRE payments are required by June 1, 2012.** For 2012, advance direct payments are not authorized in accordance to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. All direct payments will be issued in October.

Crop Reporting Deadlines

The deadline for reporting fall seeded small grains is **June 30, 2012**. The deadline for all other crops, **including** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is **July 15, 2012**. Please call for an appointment to report your crops.

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ACRE Yield Data Deadline

Participants in the ACRE program must certify their yields by **July 15, 2012**, to remain eligible for ACRE benefits. Participants in the ACRE program must certify their yields by **July 15, 2012**, to remain eligible for ACRE benefits.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. 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 and 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.

NEW Crop Reporting Dates

To better align with crop insurance reporting deadlines, FSA is changing some of the acreage re-reporting dates. All 2013 crop year forage and fall-seeded small grains will need to be reported to FSA by November 15, 2012.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency **prior** to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in the loss of eligibility and lose of all payments on all farms from the time of conversion to today.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual

signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program, Farm Storage Facility Loan, & Adjusted Gross Income documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you're interested in obtaining a form, contact the nearest FSA Office for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. For timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA Office if an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA Office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

County Committee Meetings

Due to budgetary issues, County Committee Meetings will be held quarterly throughout calendar year 2012. Dates of meetings and regular session minutes are posted in the offices. Please call the office to confirm meeting dates and time.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff.

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 details of this event! We hope to see you there.

2012 Dates to Remember

May 28th - Office closed for the observance of Memorial Day

May 31st - Final date to obtain loans on harvested corn and soybeans for 2011

June 1st - Deadline for DCP/ACRE Enrollment and ACRE Election

June 20th - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn

June 30th - Final crop certification date for all fall seeded small grain

July 4th - Office closed for the observance of July 4th Holiday

July 5th - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for soybeans

July 15th - Final crop certification date for all crops (including CRP and GRP), except fall seeded small grains - Deadline for reporting 2011 production for enrolled ACRE farms - Deadline for reporting 2011 NAP crop production - Deadline to establish Benchmark Yields for newly enrolled ACRE farms

September 3 - Office closed for the observance of Labor Day

September 30 - NAP sales closing deadline for 2013 forage crops

November 15th - Final crop certification date for all 2012 fall seeded small grain (wheat) and perennial forage

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Ionia County FSA Office, contact Jenifer A. Taylor, County Executive Director at jenifer.taylor@mi.usda.gov or 616-527-2098.

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 20250-9410, 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).