

June 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

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

The certification form FSA-578: Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by **June 30th for wheat and July 15th for all other crops.**

ACRE Yield Data Deadline

To remain eligible for Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) benefits, participants in the ACRE program must certify their yields by **July 15, 2012.**

Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will be utilized during the 2012 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2012 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to the FSA County Committee (COC) is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA County Committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

COC members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Since COC elections only happen once a year, here is a refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAAs). Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA COC. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Ionia County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA #1 which includes Otisco, Orleans, Ronald, North Plains, Easton, and Ionia Townships.

Nominations for candidates to run for the COC election representing producers in LAA #1 will be accepted from **June 15 through August 1, 2012**. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA #1 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the COC. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated and be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 1, 2012**. A nomination form and fact sheet is included in this letter. More information on the election is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

MILC Program

Attention dairy farmers: Have you signed your Milk Income Loss Contract? Have you submitted February and March milk production evidence? If not, you'll want to do so. There could be payments waiting for you! The February MILC payment rate was \$0.3895043 per cwt. March has a payment rate of \$0.8262432 per cwt.

If you have signed up and submitted production evidence but are still not receiving payments, please check with the office to ensure that you have also signed an Adjusted Gross Income form for 2012. This certification must be on file before any payments can be made to you.

Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2012 programs is required to submit all applicable paperwork for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes.

Contributions

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- personal labor
- active personal management
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation.

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

2012 Dates to Remember

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.

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