

October 2012



Ionia 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.

Ionia County FSA

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Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: 616-527-2098
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Hours:

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

County Executive Director

Jenifer A. Taylor

Program Technicians

William Brandt
Carolyn Lindberg
Diana Graef

Farm Loan Manager

Paul E. Wagner

Farm Loan Officer

Sara Possehn
Program Technician
Vicki Carr, PT

Dates to Remember

October 8 - Office closed in observance of Columbus Day.

October 22 - First day to apply for 2011 SURE.

November 1 - Final date to submit production evidence for the MILC program.

November 12 - Office closed in observance of Veterans' Day.

November 15 - NEW! Final date to report wheat, small grain and forage crops.

November 20 - Sales closing date for 2013 NAP apricots, asparagus, blueberries, sweet/tart cherries, cane berries (raspberries), grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb, and strawberries.

November 22 - Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

December 1 - Sales closing date for 2013 NAP honey and maple sap.

December 3 - Final date for County Committee Election ballots to be postmarked or returned.

December 25 - Office closed in observance of Christmas Day.

January 15 - Final date to report apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, and peaches.

January 31 - Final date to request 2012 wool loan or LDP.

February 1 - Sales closing date for 2013 onions.

March 15 - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops.

March 31 - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP.

May 31 - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP.

Production Evidence Deadlines for MILC

Final production evidence for program payments **MUST** be received in the applicable County Office by **November 1, 2012**. If not previously submitted, all production evidence for milk produced during the months of October, 2008, through September, 2012, must be received in the office by November 1, 2012. MILC producers will be receiving a letter informing them which month's production, if any, is missing for any of these months for which a payment was available.

New 2013 Crop Reporting Deadline for Wheat and Hay!

Fall seeded wheat, small grain and forage crops must be reported at your local FSA office by **November 15, 2012**. Prevented planting on wheat must be reported by November 9, 2012. Please mark your calendars!

Keep Good Records....Especially for Disaster Programs

The drought and extreme temperatures continue to negatively affect local crops and livestock. Although we had some late season rains, it may have come too late for some crops. Many of the disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2011. This included the SURE program for crops and programs like LIP and LDAP for livestock. However, there are some actions that you should take now to document losses.

- If you have extra feed costs due to drought, be sure to keep good records of feed, including hay and silage that was purchased. There should be a dated receipt with details on the number of bales purchased or the tons of silage purchased.
- Keep good records of any livestock losses. This should include dates of death, pictures, and documentation from a third-party source such as a veterinarian or a neighbor.
- Keep good records of crop loss. Get appraisals from a licensed crop adjuster on your crop if you are not harvesting it as grain. You will also need this if you are applying for an emergency loan.
- If you have a failed crop that you are not going to harvest, fill out a CCC-576: Notice of Loss at the FSA office. The notice of loss changes your crop status from "planted" to "failed". By filing this form it allows us to keep an accurate record of crop losses in the county. This form is **required** for anyone who has a NAP policy and has a crop loss. It may be also be required if you have crop insurance.
- Consider purchasing a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy for 2013 crops. NAP provides coverage for all crops that are not covered by crop insurance. This includes hay and other forage crops, and fruit and vegetable crops.

Emergency Loans

Ionia County has been declared a disaster county by multiple Secretarial Disaster Designations. Due to this declaration emergency loans are now available.

Producers must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in production losses in order to qualify. Up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses may be borrowed, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. These applications will be accepted through April 29, 2013. The interest rate for emergency loans is currently 2.125%.

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).