

January 2013



## Ionia County FSA Updates

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### 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

#### 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

**January 21** - Office closed in observance of the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

**February 9** - Emergency Planning Event. See below for more information.

**February 18** - Office closed in observance of Washington's Birthday.

**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 27** - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day.

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

**June 7** - Deadline to sign-up for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses.

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## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Amanda Powell! Amanda was elected to represent farmers from Otisco, Orleans, Ronald, North Plains, Easton, and Ionia Townships on the County Committee. Amanda was elected to her first consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Amanda Powell — Elected to the County Committee (COC)

Michael T Hogan — 1st alternate to COC

Gerald Heppe — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

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## **USDA Urges Producers to Complete and Return the 2012 Census of Agriculture**

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mailed the 2012 Census of Agriculture during the last week of December and is asking for the help of farmers and ranchers in collecting accurate data.

The Census of Agriculture is only conducted once every five years and captures a count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them. Everyone who receives a Census form is required to return the Census form, even if they no longer farm or have never been involved in agriculture. Retired operators who own land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are counted as farms and should complete the Census form.

Results of the Census are used by USDA, university research and extension, state and local officials, agribusinesses, farm organizations and commodity groups to make important policy and business decisions that impact people across the nation.

Please return the Census by February 4, 2013. Producers can also complete the Census online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) after receiving the Census form through the mail. Information reported by producers is confidential. The results of the Census show the strength and diversity of U.S. agriculture.

Your answers to the Census can help grow your farm future, shape farm programs and boost services for you, your community and your industry.

For questions or help completing the Census, contact NASS at (888) 424-7828 or your local FSA Office.

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## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The noninsured 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 the date the loss became apparent.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of March 15, 2013: beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon, etc.), peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, sorghum, sorghum forage, squash, sunflowers and tomatoes.

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

In past years, IRS Form 1099-G was issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, the 1099-G reporting will change.

IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers) will only be issued to producers whose reportable payments total \$600 or more for the calendar year. Additionally, if the producer has at least \$600 in reportable payments received from multiple FSA offices, only one Form 1099-G will be issued. Producers subject to voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding will receive the appropriate IRS form, even if combined payments are less than \$600.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA. Any producer who receives less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

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## **Emergency Planning Event Scheduled for February 9th**

Ever wonder what would happen in the event of a fire on your farm? Do you know who to call if a manure spill occurs? Or have you ever wondered how you would get help if you suddenly had a medical emergency in an isolated location (say, at the top of a grain bin)? Emergency planning is a critical and often overlooked part of farm safety. Equally important is making sure that first responders have access to your emergency information. Planning for risk management can help you avoid loss of property and loss of life.

The Ionia Conservation District and the Portland Fire Department will be hosting a free Farm Emergency Planning Open House on Saturday, February 9, from 10:00 to 11:00 am at Bader & Sons John Deere in Portland. Members of the Portland Fire Department as well as Rachel Koleda, Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Technician for Ionia County, will be on hand to discuss various farm emergencies, assist with writing farm emergency plans, provide emergency tubes and answer any questions you may have. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. For further information, please call Rachel Koleda at (616) 527-2620 ext. 113.

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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).