

May 2013



Ionia County FSA Updates

Ionia County FSA Office Acreage Certification

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Ionia, MI 48846

Phone: 616-527-2098
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Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Acreage reports for crops enrolled in programs other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are to be certified by the November 15th deadline on small grains and the **July 15th** deadline on all other crops.

Crops that were prevented from being planted or failed due to a natural disaster condition should be reported on your acreage report. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. FSA needs to be given enough notice to be able to verify the loss before the crop is destroyed. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

General CRP Sign-Up Ends June 14

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

Dates to Remember

May 13 - Continuous CRP Sign-Up Begins

May 20 - June 14 - General CRP Sign-Up 45

May 27 - Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 31 - Final date to obtain loans on 2012 feed grains and soybeans

June 3 - Deadline for 2013 ACRE Sign-Up

June 7 - Deadline to submit 2011 SURE applications

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

June 30 - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for soybeans

July 15 - Final crop certification date for all crops (including CRP and GRP), except fall seeded small grains and perennial forage including pasture

July 15 - Deadline for reporting 2012 production for enrolled ACRE farms

July 15 - Deadline for reporting 2012 NAP crop production

August 2 - Deadline for 2013 DCP Sign-Up

November 15 - Final crop certification date for all fall seeded small grains and perennial forage including pasture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).