

June 2013



Ionia County FSA Updates

Ionia County FSA Office **DCP Signup Continues**

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

County Executive Director
Jennifer A. Taylor

Program Technicians
William Brandt
Carolyn Lindberg
Diana Graef

County Committee Members
Steve Buche
Jeff Sandborn
Amanda Powell

County Committee Advisor
Allison Badder

Farm Loan Manager
Paul E. Wagner

Farm Loan Officer
Sara Possehn

Program Technician
Vicki Carr

Don't forget to get signed up for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). Signup ends August 2nd. **Call today to make an appointment!**

Acreage Certification

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.

Note: You may still report your 2013 fall seeded crops without a late file fee for this year only. **All crops planted this fall, including alfalfa and pasture must be reported by November 15, 2013.**

Prevented Planting and Failed Acreage

Crops that were prevented from being planted or failed due to a natural disaster condition should be reported on your acreage report. Timely reporting crop loss could be beneficial with crediting cropping history, future disaster programs, or Risk Management Agency (RMA) claims.

Prevented Planting - For 2013 "ONLY" you may file prevented planting by July 15, 2013.

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.

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 and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

2013 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operation. 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.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 17, 2013 – The nomination period begins.

August 1, 2013 – This is the last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

November 4, 2013 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 2, 2013 – Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center.

January 1, 2014 – Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Dates to Remember

July 15 - Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn and 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

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