

March 2013



Isabella County FSA Updates

Isabella County FSA Office

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County Committee:
Beth Bryant - Chair
John Kampt - Vice Chair
Kevin Faber - Member
Carol Neyer - Advisor

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

45th CRP General Sign-Up

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 sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (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.

CRP Informational Meeting Scheduled

Isabella County FSA office will be hosting an informational Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) meeting on Tuesday April 23, 2013 from 1pm to 2pm at the Isabella County Court House Room 225.

The purpose of this meeting is to give interested CRP Participants information on the 2013 CRP Sign up 45, May 20th through June 14th. You will be given a general overview of the program requirements and commitments along with what decisions will need to be made the day of your appointment in the office.

Please bring any questions with you the day of the meeting.

R.S.V.P with Heather at (989) 772-5927 ext. 2, no later than Friday April 5th, 2013.

Annual CRP Certification Deadline: July 15, 2013

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

March 31st: Final date to request a 2012 crop small grains and honey loan or LDP.

May 31st: Final date to request 2012 crop feed grains, oilseeds loan or LDP.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- * Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- * Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- * Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.

Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Changes

Have you purchased a farm, sold ground, rented new ground, dropped a farm, or changed your cropland in any way? For any ground purchased, we need the proof of ownership along with the property description. If you have any new leases, please provide copies of those to us. If you have made any changes, now is the time to notify this office so your farm records can be updated and ready to go when you come in to sign up.

2013 Dates to Remember

February 19 – Sign-Up Begins for the DCP AND ACRE PROGRAMS (Direct and Counter –Cyclical Program & ACRE) *PRODUCERS WHO ENROLLED IN ACRE FOR 2012 MAY ELECT TO ENROLL IN DCP FOR 2013, OR VICE VERSA.**

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

April 10 thru June 5 – Planting Period for Cool Season Introduced Grasses **for CRP.**

May 5thru June 15 – Planting Period for Warm Season Native Species Grasses **for CRP.**

May 20- June 14th - 45TH GENERAL CRP SIGNUP BEGINS.

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

June 3 - FINAL DATE TO SIGN INTO THE ACRE PROGRAM.

July 15 – Final date to certify Spring Barley, Cabbage (planted 3/31-5/31) **Corn, Dry Beans**, Forage Seeding, Green Peas, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Onions, Popcorn, Potatoes, **Soybeans**, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other Crops **including CRP.**

August 2, 2013 – FINAL DATE TO SIGN INTO DCP PROGRAM.

August 15 – Final Date to report Cabbage (planted 6/1-7/20) and Processing Beans.

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).