

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



Isabella County FSA Updates

- [SOYBEAN REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM](#)
 - [GOV DELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG](#)
 - [2013 ACRE PRODUCTION REPORTING DEADLINE](#)
 - [ISABELLA COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS](#)
 - [2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES](#)
 - [ASKFSA](#)
 - [SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA](#)
 - [USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY \(FSA\) OFFERS FARM BILL WEBSITE AND ONLINE OVERVIEW OF FARM BILL PROGRAMS](#)
-

Isabella County FSA Office

5979 E Broadway Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-772-5927
Fax: 855-662-9276

County Executive Director:
Wayne Stickler

Farm Loan Manager:
Jerry Spickerman

Program Technicians:
Becky Dickman
Connie Moeggenborg
Heather Hadder
Colleen Schuldt

County Committee:
Beth Bryant - Chairperson
John Kampf - Vice Chairperson
Kevin Faber - Member
Carol Neyer - Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: To be determined

SOYBEAN REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM

The USDA Farm Service Agency is accepting Soybean Request For Referendum documents through May 30th 2014. The United Soybean Board administers a coordinated promotion and research program designed to expand uses of soybeans and soy products. Eligible voters must have produced soybeans and paid an assessment in 2012 or 2013. Producers who desire a referendum shall participate. Form LS-51-1 can be obtained online or from your FSA office and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. Contact the Isabella County FSA Office at 989-772-5927.

GOV DELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.** You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

2013 ACRE PRODUCTION REPORTING DEADLINE

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for the covered commodities and peanuts planted on the farm by July 15, 2014. Failure to report production for those covered commodities and peanuts planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination. If the contract is terminated, all payments, including direct payments previously received plus interest will be required to be refunded.

ISABELLA COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

Isabella County was declared a primary/contiguous disaster county due to physical damage and losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, high winds, hail, lightning and tornado like conditions that occurred from April 12, 2014 through April 15, 2014. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration (until January 5, 2015) to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Other eligibility requirements apply.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit our website on [Emergency Loans](#).

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Isabella County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Isabella County:

July 15, 2014:	Spring planted grains, forage seedings and all other crops not listed below
August 15, 2014:	Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20), processing beans
November 15, 2014:	Perennial forage, fall seeded small grains
January 15, 2015:	Apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes and peaches

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

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.

ASKFSA

Are you looking for answers to your FSA questions? Then ASK FSA at askfsa.custhelp.com.

AskFSA is an online resource that helps you easily find information and answers to your FSA questions no matter where you are or what device you use. It is for ALL customers, including underserved farmers and ranchers who wish to be enrolled in FSA loans, farm, and conservation programs.

Through AskFSA you can:

- Access our knowledge base 24/7
- Receive answers to your questions faster
- Submit a question and receive a timely response from an FSA expert
- Get notifications when answers important to you and your farming operation are updated
- Customize your account settings and view responses at any time

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) OFFERS FARM BILL WEBSITE AND ONLINE OVERVIEW OF FARM BILL PROGRAMS

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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).