

August 2013



Kent County FSA Updates

Kent County FSA Office **Bank Changes**

3260 Eagle Park Drive NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Phone: 616-942-4111
Fax: 855-729-8875

County Executive Director:
David Bain

Program Technicians:
Richard Dunton
Nina Zick
Debbie Diehl

Farm Loan Manager:
Paul Wagner
Phone: 616-527-2098

Next County Committee Meeting: Tentative
Sept. 18, 2013 at 8:00 AM

Kent County Committee:
Ronald Alt - Chair Person
Fred Oesch - Vice Chairperson
Michael Nugent - Member
Debra Kober - Advisor

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payments could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Farm Record Changes

Please provide to your local Farm Service Agency office any farm record changes for the 2013 crop year. Those changes include; landownership changes, changes in your farm operation, additional land added to your operation, removal of land from your operation, cropland changes, land clearing, leveling and/or tiling of acreage that may require updated wetland determinations.

All these changes are required to remain in compliance with program provisions and to continue to earn USDA benefits.

If you have any questions, please contact your Farm Service Agency office immediately.

Attention NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) Producers!

Your 2013 production is needed. As you complete harvesting for the 2013 growing season, be sure to turn your production into your local FSA office. This is required if you have a NAP policy. Prior missing year's production can also be submitted. This could raise your Actual Production History (APH).

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop, maximum of \$750 per county!

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at www.lrfstool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp. Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

THE DEADLINE for purchasing your 2014 policies are as follows:

August 30, 2013: Aquaculture, Nursery Crops, Christmas Trees, & Grass Sod

September 30, 2013: Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Seed Crops, & Fall Speltz

November 20, 2013: Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, & Strawberries

December 1, 2013: Honey & Maple Sap

March 15, 2014: Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, most Vegetable Crops

If you grow a crop not listed here – call your local FSA Service Center. Keep in mind that some of these crops are covered by Federal Crop Insurance in certain counties. In counties where alfalfa and mixed forage (AGM) are covered by crop insurance, FSA cannot sell a NAP policy for these types of forage when the seedings are older than 6 years. Crops determined not insurable and not eligible for NAP do not need to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirement.

REMEMBER – Without insurance you are NOT eligible for National Disaster Programs!

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age

- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

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).