

June 2012



## Lenawee County FSA Updates

### Lenawee County FSA Office

**Address:**  
1100 Sutton RD  
Adrian MI 49221

**Phone:** 517-263-7400  
**Fax:** 517-265-9121

**Hours:** 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**County Executive  
Director:**  
Constance Reid Guffey

**Program Technicians:**  
Brenda Andrews  
Jodie Johnson  
Debra Shiels  
Jessica Mullins  
Barbara Wagner  
Beth Wagner  
Jamie Wegner

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Michael Jordon

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Rebecca Deline

**County Committee (COC)**  
Michael Feight, Chairman  
Dale Terry, Vice Chair  
Eugenie Hillard, Member  
Bonnie Shepherd, Advisor

### County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. For more information just contact your local FSA office.

### Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2012 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.

#### Contributions:

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or not compensated, for active personal labor, active personal management, or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **Compliance**

Compliance and spot checks will be utilized during the 2012 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated website. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

## **Crop Reporting**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

The producer certification deadline for wheat is June 30th.

The deadline for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other crops July 15, 2012.

These dates have been changed for 2013 crops. A handout is available in the office on this topic.

### **CRP & NAP Certification:**

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

### **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Rule Reminder**

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

## **Banking Changes?**

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment 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 account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

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).