

AUGUST 2012



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Lenawee County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Lenawee County

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County Committee (COC)

Michael Feight, Chairman
Dale Terry, Vice Chair
Eugenie Hillard, Member
Bonnie Shepherd, Advisor

Crop Certification Not Done for 2012?

Participants in most programs are required to file a crop acreage report annually. If you are in any of the following programs and have not yet been in to complete this, please call as soon as possible for an appointment. Certification is required to be in compliance with your contract.

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:

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

New Crop Certification Deadlines For 2013

11/15/12 Is the deadline for filing 2013 acreage reports for wheat and other fall-seeded small grains. This is also the deadline for reporting alfalfa, mixed hay and other perennial forages.

Upcoming Deadlines

09/01/12 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for Christmas Trees
09/30/12 NAP for other Fall Seeded Crops and perennial forages such as alfalfa and hay
11/09/12 Wheat Prevented Planting
11/15/12 2013 crop acreage reports for wheat, alfalfa, mixed hay and other forage crops
11/20/12 NAP For Apples, Asparagus, Grapes & Strawberries
01/15/13 2013 crop reports for Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes and Peaches

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment, either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

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).