

November 2012



Lenawee County FSA Updates

Lenawee County

FSA Office

1100 Sutton RD
Adrian MI 49221

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

County Executive Director:
Constance Reid Guffey

Program Technicians:

Debra Shiels	Ext 105
Jessica Mullins	125
Barbara Wagner	107
Beth Wagner	106
Jamie Wegner	104

Farm Loan Manager:

Michael Jordon

Farm Loan Officer:

Rebecca Deline

Program Technicians:

Brenda Andrews	113
Jodie Johnson	112

County Committee Elections

Ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012. Local Administrative Area 3 will elect a County Committee Member this year. This includes farm owners and operators in the following townships: Raisin, Ridgeway, Palmyra, Blissfield, Deerfield, Ogden and Riga. Nominees are Dale Terry of Palmyra (incumbent) and James Tipton of Blissfield. If for some reason you did not receive a ballot, please notify us at 263-7400 extension 106 or stop by the office.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Sign-Up for 2011 Crop Losses

The sign-up period for the 2011 crop year SURE program began in October. The SURE program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). SURE provides assistance to farmers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011. Lenawee County producers are eligible for SURE due to a disaster designation. In addition to that designation, a farm must meet the following requirements to be eligible for SURE:

At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. June 7, 2013, is the signup deadline.

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. 2012 crop loan rates are: Corn \$1.92, Soybeans \$5.03 and Wheat \$2.82.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Reduce Your Environmental Foot Print

USDA has been “Going Green” for many years. We see big changes such as FSA no longer printing and mailing newsletters. There are easy things you can do also, that in most instances will save money while saving resources. You can find information on energy awareness and sustainable operations at our USDA website: www.greening.usda.gov . Another site containing many links that may be of interest is: www.dm.usda.gov .

- Shut down your computer, monitor, printer, lights, and electrical equipment before leaving your home or office, even if it's just for a couple of hours.
 - Eliminate excess paper. Go to websites instead of picking up bulletins or flyers by habit. If you are planning a meeting, e-mail your presentation and documents, display them on a screen during the presentation, posted them on the internet, or burn to a CD.
 - Before you print something or make a copy, ask yourself if you really need it. If you do print, print double-sided whenever possible and print only the pages that you need. A typical laser printer consumes as much as 600 watts of power when printing and 12 when idle.
 - Carry a reusable mug and metal water bottle. Less plastic will be in the environment and experts say it is healthier too.
 - Before traveling and doing errands, ask yourself if a phone call and better planning will save you time and gasoline.
 - Bring your own bag. Americans throw away more than a billion plastic shopping bags every year. Use re-useable shopping bags and recycle any plastic bags.
 - Join a car pool, slow down to save gas and reduce emissions (for every mile per hour faster than 55, fuel economy drops by about 1 percent), check your tires to make sure they are properly inflated (under inflated tires can cut off up to 3 mpg), and avoid refueling on ozone action days.
 - Recycle cardboard, newspaper, and other paper, glass, metals and plastics. It is not much work once you are organized, plus you will be contributing much less to a landfill. Aluminum cans could be saved and donated to groups fund-raising in your community.
 - By saving more and spending less, you prevent the production of things you don't need.
-

FSA's GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

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).