

January 2014



- County Committee (COC) Advisors
- Farm Record Changes
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Lenawee County FSA Updates

Lenawee County FSA Office

1100 Sutton Rd
Adrian, MI 49221

Phone: 517-263-7400
Fax: 855-643-5267

County Executive Director:
Constance Reid Guffey

Program Technicians:
Debra Shiels ext. 105
Jessica Mullins 125
Barbara Wagner 107
Beth Wagner 106
Jamie Wegner 104

County Committee Members:
Michael Feight - Chair
Genie Hillard - Vice Chair
Dale Terry - Member
Stephanie Thompson - Advisor

Farm Loan Manager:
Michael Jordon

Program Technicians:
Brenda Andrews ext. 113
Jodie Johnson 112

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** January 22, 2014 at
8:30 AM

County Committee (COC) Advisors

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for underrepresented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Our COC Advisor is Stephanie Thompson. The COC will soon be submitting the name of their nominee for confirmation for 2014. Eligibility requirements for a COC Advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed
- indicate in writing a willingness and ability to serve

Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attending each COC meeting, including executive sessions
- participating in all deliberations
- increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered
- helping to develop interest in socially disadvantaged group members for considering a career with FSA
- actively soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for COC election nominations
- able to perform special duties at COC's request

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, please report the changes to the office as soon as possible. Provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update direct deposit information and signature authorization when changes occur.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Outreach to Women and New Producers

Perhaps you have recently become involved in farming, or have been involved in farming for years with your spouse, but you want to learn more about FSA programs?

Do you want to better understand the benefits or requirements of a program? Do you want to know what we offer specifically for "Beginning Farmers"? Do you want to be more informed on the County Committee election process and be more involved? Please join us for informal meetings, especially for you, on any first Wednesday of the month from 9:00 -10:00 a.m. The topics will vary depending on your interests. There will be an informal presentation and discussion. Please call 263-7400 and press 2. Ask what the topic for the next meeting will be and let us know if you want to reserve a spot.

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