

December 2012



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## St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Updates

### St. Clair / Macomb County **ACRE** FSA Office

2830 Wadhams Rd  
Kimball, MI 48074-1403

**Phone:** 810-984-3865 x2  
**Fax:** 810-984-2345

**Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

All producers who took part in the 2012 ACRE program are required to submit their production yield data on an FSA 658 per ACRE farm by July 15th 2013. If you know your ACRE Farm crop yield(s) please contact the office. If the FSA 658 is not received by July 15th, 2013 you will be required to repay your ACRE October 2012 Direct payment.

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**County Executive Director:**  
Dean E Forrester

**Program Technicians:**  
Brenda M Boyd  
Ellen Wilson  
Steve Simmons  
Karla Frammolino

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
David J Hemker

810-230-8766  
or  
810 648-2998

### **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Period**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit the FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in their communities.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims.

Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, people seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's news release click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

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## Farm Records Changes

Keeping your farm records updated at FSA is an important part of all FSA programs. The following changes should be reported to the office:

- Changes in land ownership including those due to a deceased owner or change to/from a trust
- Changes in farm operators
- Changes in an entity's members
- Address corrections
- Name changes

Now is a good time to get these critical updates completed by contacting the office and/or providing documentation of the change.

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## **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

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## **Commodity Loans**

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, producers 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 the producer regains beneficial interest.

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.

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## **Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain**

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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## **COC Election Results**

Congratulations to John Busemann of Columbus for being re-elected to represent the residents of Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 which consists of the following St. Clair County townships: Riley, Wales and Columbus. He will also represent the following Macomb County townships: Armada, Richmond, and Lenox. This will be John's third three year term. Thank you John for your service on the committee. The office staff and COC members look forward to working with him in this next term. Also serving this LLA as 1st alternate is Loretta Domagalski; Loretta also serves the Advisor to the County Committee.

Congratulations to Charles Lewis of North Street. Charles was elected to represent the residents of Local Administrative Area (LAA) 4 which consists of the following St Clair County townships: Greenwood, Grant, Burtchville, Kenockee, Clyde and Fort Gratiot as the regular member to the County Committee (COC). This is Charles' first term and the office staff and COC members look forward to working with him. Also serving this LAA is Jeff Brown as 1st alternate and Scott Jackson as 2nd alternate.

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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).