



Mason, Oceana, Lake, Manistee County News

USDA Service Center

Mason, Oceana, Lake, Manistee County FSA

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 www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday - Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

John LaPointe, Chairperson
 Chuck Schade, Vice-Chair
 James Bush, Member
 Sarah Grabowski, Member
 Ed Kolbe Jr., Member
 Shirley MacKenzie, Advisor

Staff

Kathi Lerg, CED
 Debbie Schulz, PT
 Beth Saxton, PT
 Larry Cleary, FLM
 Nicole Phillips, FLO

We wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!



Conservation Compliance Reminder

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new cropland, breaking out additional cropland, shortening an established cropping rotation, planting new crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact your local County office BEFORE modifying (tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling) any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and program eligibility.

COC ELECTION

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 4, 2011. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 5, 2011.



2012 NAP Sales Closing Dates

The final deadline for 2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are as follows:

November 20, 2011 for coverage on all perennial crops such as asparagus, strawberries and ALL FRUIT.

December 1, 2011 for honey and maple sap.

February 2, 2012 for onions.

March 15, 2012 for all annually planted crops not covered by federal crop insurance, such as vegetables.

Any changes to crop acreage, such as removal of orchards or new plantings should also be reported at this time.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.



Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.



Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Reporting Changes

It is important to remember to contact the office with any records changes that may have occurred. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- Address – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.
- Direct Deposit – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information be updated immediately.
- Development – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- Owner/Operator Changes – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators should be reported as soon as possible.
- Farm Operating Plan – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on "actively engaged" determinations.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

Deadline to Purchase NAP

Nov. 20: Asparagus, Fruit (including grapes, strawberries, raspberries, & rhubarb)

Dec. 1: Honey & Maple Sap

March 15: Beans, Cucumbers, Winter Squash, Sweet Corn (Spring planted crops)

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm;
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Mason, Ocean, Lake and Manistee County **did** have a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2010; therefore, producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance will be eligible to apply for SURE. Signup for crop year 2010 begins November 14, 2011. **Applications for 2010 SURE must be received by June 1, 2012.**



2012 DCP/ ACRE Signup

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) sign-up period for fiscal year 2012 begins **January 23, 2012 and runs through June 1, 2012.**

Producers renting land may provide a copy of their lease agreement, or obtain landowner signatures on the contract. The lease must include at a minimum: signature dates, the length of the lease, it must have the landowner and the operator names printed along with signatures and include information pertaining to the terms of the lease agreement.

Commodity Loans Available

2011 Crop Commodity Loans are available on wheat, oats, barley and honey until March 31, 2012, and corn and soybeans until May 31, 2012.

To be eligible for a loan a producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, have a 2011 FSA-578, Report of Acreage on file, and comply with Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Loans mature on the last day of the 9th month following the month in which the loan is approved.

The two types of commodity loans are farm-stored and warehouse stored. Farm-stored loan quantities can be certified or a measurement service can be performed at your cost. Warehouse stored loans require a warehouse certificate with storage paid.

The current interest rate through October is 1.125%. To access loan rates on the WEB visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=lor>

We would like to encourage all producers to sign up your email address online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi> Follow the "Newsletters" link on the left column of the main page and enter your email in the "Sign up for updates" box under "Stay Connected" section.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Dates to Remember	
Nov. 11	Closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 24	Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 26	Closed for Christmas Day
Jan. 02	Closed for New Year Day
Jan. 16	Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 23	DCP/ACRE sign up begins
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

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