



# NEWSLETTER



November/December  
2012

**USDA Service  
Center  
Mason, Oceana,  
Lake, Manistee  
County  
FSA Office**

655 N. Scottville Rd.  
Scottville, MI 49454

231-757-3707 phone  
231-757-4133 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am -4:30 pm

#### **County Committee**

**John LaPointe  
Chuck Schade  
James Bush  
Sarah Grabowski  
Ed Kolbe Jr.**

#### **Advisor**

**Shirley MacKenzie**

#### **Staff**

**Kathi Lerg, CED  
Debbie Schulz, PT  
Beth Saxton, PT  
Laura Wilson, PT**

**Larry Cleary, FLM  
Nicole Phillips, FLO**

## **2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in order to be eligible.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/).

## **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.

## **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



## Websites for Buying/Selling Hay

With our current shortage of hay crops and soaring prices from the 2012 season, here are some websites that you may find helpful for both hay producers and hay buyers!

- 1) [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/drought\\_resources](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/drought_resources)
- 2) <http://www.lmic2.info/tac/other/Lists/hay&pasture.pdf>
- 3) <http://web2.canr.msu.edu/hay/>
- 4) <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/hayNet?area=online&subject=landing&topic=han&setflag=welcome>
- 5) <http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/farmnews/tra nsform.php?xml=19990815/hay.xml>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 25** - Office closed in observance of Christmas Day.

**January 1** - Office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

**January 2** - Deadline to certify honey and report subsequent years' production for NAP.

**January 15** - Final date to report apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, and peaches; report subsequent years' production for NAP on these crops.

**January 31** - Final date to request 2012 wool loan or LDP.

**March 1** - Deadline to apply for Emergency Loans for 2012 crop losses.

**March 15** - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops.

**March 31** - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP.

**May 31** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

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 your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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).