

June 2014



# NEWSLETTER



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## Mason/Oceana/Lake/Manistee County FSA Updates

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### Mason/Oceana/Lake/Manistee County FSA Office Dates to Remember

655 N. Scottville Rd.  
Scottville, MI 49454-9569  
Phone: 231-757-3707  
Fax: 855-663-1378

**County Executive Director:**  
Kathi Lerg

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Larry Cleary

**Program Technicians:**  
Debbie Schulz  
Beth Saxton  
Laura Wilson

**County Committee**  
Chuck Schade  
Eric Herrygers  
Sarah Grabowski  
James Bush  
Bruce Burke

**Next County Committee Meeting:**  
August 28th at 9:00 a.m.

- **June 30th – Deadline to report Prevented Planting Soybeans**
- **July 4th** - FSA office closed for Independence Day holiday
- **August 1st** - Final date for County Offices to receive FSA-669A's, County Committee nomination forms
- **August 1st** - 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) sign-up deadline
- **August 1st** - Deadline to request a farm reconstitution for 2014
- **August 15th** - Deadline to report 2013 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) production evidence
- **November 1st** - 2014 ELAP sign-up deadline

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## Report Your Crops

Please call the Scottville Service Center to set up an appointment to certify your crops. Enrollment in most FSA programs requires you to annually report your crops. This includes acreage enrolled in CRP.

Call now to make sure that you report timely before the **July 15, 2014** deadline.

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## Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

As we begin enrollment in Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups- and in some cases- multiple management decisions that you will need to make in consultation with FSA staff. To ensure efficient use of your time and to assure that you are afforded our full attention to your farming operation needs,

please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you visit your USDA Service Center. Please contact us at 231-757-3707 ext. 2 to set up a convenient date/time.

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## 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadlines

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must report their crops, pasture, and agricultural ground timely. The following deadlines apply:

- **July 15th** – Spring seeded grains and spring planted row crops
- **September 30th** – Aquaculture, Christmas trees, floriculture, mushrooms, & turfgrass sod
- **November 15th** – Perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains
- **January 2nd** – Honey (number of colonies)
- **January 15th** – Apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1st** – Maple sap (number of eligible trees and taps)

Contact your local Farm Service Agency to set up an appointment when planting is completed.

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## Guaranteed Loan Eligibility

Changes to FSA regulations have removed Guaranteed Operating Loan term limits. Previous and current guaranteed loan borrowers who were not eligible for further guaranteed loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit may now be eligible for further guaranteed loans through their commercial lender.

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## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If you have any land changes such as new ownership or land sale, or have a change to make to your farm and tracts, contact the FSA office at 231-757-3707 to find out more information or to initiate a reconstitution.

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