

March 2013



Mecosta County FSA Updates

Mecosta County FSA Office

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DCP/ACRE Sign up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment. No advanced payments will be provided during this sign up.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

45th CRP General Sign Up

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations. FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program. Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or who would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

Dates to Remember:

- **March 31** - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP
 - **April 29** - Final date to apply for an Emergency Loan based on disaster S3370 - summer 2012 drought and excessive heat
 - **May 20** - CRP sign-up begins
 - **May 27** - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
 - **May 31** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP
 - **June 3** - ACRE (2013) sign-up period will end
 - **June 7** - 2011 SURE Sign up deadline
 - **June 14** - CRP sign-up ends
 - **June 30** - Final date for late-filed certifications for fall-2012 seeded crops, hay, and mixed forage
 - **July 15** - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program
 - **July 15** - Deadline for acreage reports on all other crops
 - **August 2** - DCP sign up (2013) ends
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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).