

August 2013



Mecosta County FSA Updates

Mecosta County FSA Office

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Next County Committee Meeting: December, 5, 2013 at 1:30 PM

DCP Signup still Going

Producers are encouraged to submit or return signed contracts for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program as **soon as possible!** There is a very limited window for consideration of these documents. If necessary documents (such as signed crop certifications, 2013 Average Adjusted Gross Income forms, etc....) are not returned timely, annual payments will not be issued. If you have any questions, please contact the Mecosta County FSA office located in Big Rapids.

CRP Maintenance

Conservation Reserve Program annual maintenance may be completed from **August 1st** through **August 20th IF NECESSARY**. Maintenance of the CRP cover is required if untreated pests (weeds, insects, brush, etc.):

- 1) Pose a threat to existing cover.
- 2) Untreated pests will adversely impact non-CRP acreage.
- 3) The planted cover is no longer providing erosion control - This may require re-establishment of the approved cover.
- 4) Noxious or invasive weed are present.

If you have noxious or invasive weeds (such as autumn olive, spotted knap weed, etc...) that are persistent or other severe weed problems, contact the office as you may be allowed to do some maintenance outside of the August 1st through 20th window (with special approval).

NOTE: Mowing for Cosmetic Purposes and Generic Weed Control is strictly PROHIBITED. Annual mowing is considered "Mowing for Cosmetic Purposes" and "Generic Weed Control".

Important Reminder about 2014 Hay, Wheat, Fall Planted Rye Crop!

The date has changed! As of 2013, producers are required to certify wheat and forage crops by **November 15, 2013** to avoid a **late file fee** of \$46 per farm. This includes all **planted 2014 wheat, all previously seeded forage (ex: alfalfa, mixed hay), and any other fall-seeded crops**. The reporting deadline has been revised to coincide with crop insurance reporting deadlines. Please be aware that the November 15th deadline applies even if you do not carry crop insurance coverage.

Planning on Tiling or Clearing Trees?

Unauthorized tiling or clearing of trees in a wetland area may jeopardize your eligibility and ALL of your USDA payments! These are just a few of the activities that are not permitted on wetland areas. If you are planning to perform any land leveling, filling, dredging, draining, excavation, land clearing, or stump removal that has not been evaluated by NRCS, come and file the necessary documentation at the FSA office ASAP.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).