

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



Mecosta County FSA Updates

Mecosta County Soybean Request For Referendum FSA Office

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County Committee:
Jim Carmichael, Chairperson
Beth Storey, Vice Chairperson
Mike Hopkins, Member
Julie Sellers, COC Advisor

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** June 17 at 9:30 am

The USDA Farm Service Agency is accepting Soybean Request For Referendum documents through May 30th 2014. The United Soybean Board administers a coordinated promotion and research program designed to expand uses of soybeans and soy products. Eligible voters must have produced soybeans and paid an assessment in 2012 or 2013. Producers who desire a referendum shall participate. Form LS-51-1 can be obtained online or from your FSA office and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. Contact your COF for additional information.

Direct Loan Changes

Changes were made in the 2014 Farm Bill to the interest rate charged on loans where FSA provides 50 percent or less on jointly financed purchases of real estate also called Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loans. The interest rate will be the greater of 2.5 percent or the current interest rate for direct Farm Ownership loans minus 2 percent, as a fixed rate for the duration of the loan. At present, the April direct Farm Ownership rate is 4.00 percent. Because the 2.5 percent floor is greater than subtracting 2 percent from the current direct farm ownership loan rate, the rate for Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loans in April is 2.50 percent.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Mecosta County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Mecosta County:

- July 15, 2014:** Spring planted grains, forage seeding and all other crops not listed below
- August 15, 2014:** Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20), processing beans
- November 15, 2014:** Perennial forage, fall seeded small grains
- January 15, 2015:** Apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes and peaches

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

LIVESTOCK/HONEY BEE DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

- LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015. Mecosta and surrounding counties were not eligible for LFP in for the crop years of 2012 and 2013.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

2013 ACRE

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for the covered commodities and peanuts planted on the farm by July 15, 2014. Failure to report production for those covered commodities and peanuts planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination. If the contract is terminated, all payments, including direct payments previously received plus interest will be required to be refunded.

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business 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 arrive for your appointment.

MAY INTEREST RATES

90 Day Treasury Bill - 0.125%
Farm Operating Loan - Direct - 2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Joint Financing - 2.500%
Limited Resource Loans - 5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Payment - 1.500%
Emergency Loans - 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Yr. - 2.250%*
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Yr. - 2.750%*
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 12 Yr. - 2.875%*
Commodity Loans - 1.125%*

GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.** You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

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).