



NEWSLETTER



July 2012

Menominee Dickinson Iron FSA Office

E106 South Drive
Stephenson MI
49887 8845

906 753 6921 phone
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

County Staff

Program Technicians

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County Committee

Nick Hanchek
Janis Linderoth
Michelle Pellegrini
Roy Forray
Mike Brzoznowski

Farm Loan Manager

Bruce Stephenson
Gladstone Service Center
906 428 1060

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at: http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Please contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. New producers are encouraged to apply for the program any time before Sept. 30, 2012.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2012 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact the Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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Secretarial Disaster Designation S3259

Effective June 29, 2012, seventy-two Michigan counties were designated as natural disaster areas, where eligible family farmers may qualify for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans due to the combined effects of blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornados, and flooding that occurred January 01, 2012 through May 11, 2012. The U.P counties affected are: Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Iron, Luce, Mackinaw, Marquette, and Menominee. Several other counties are named as contiguous counties, where farm operators in primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, pursuant to Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Those counties are: Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton and Ontonagon.

Emergency application will be received through March 01, 2013 for production losses; and applications pending on that date may be processed and completed. EM loans will be made under FSA Washington Handbook 3-FLP. For the purpose of determining loan security values for these loan applications, the beginning date for the incidence period is January 1, 2012.

Contact the Farm Loan Staff in the Delta Service Center: Phone 906 428 3361
E-mail Bruce Stephenson, Farm Loan Manager bruce.stephenson@mi.usda.gov

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions,

Producers must agree that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at 906 753 2513 & visit with Craig Aho, D.C. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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