

March 2014



# NEWSLETTER



## Topics for March

- COC Election Results
- Controlled Substance
- Livestock Producers Affected by Severe Weather Urged to Keep Good Records
- Farming Operation Changes
- Special Accommodations

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## Midland County FSA Updates

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### Midland County FSA Office

954 E. Isabella Rd  
Midland, MI 48640

Phone: 989-832-3651  
Fax: 855-662-9273

**County Executive Director:**  
Dave Claerhout

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Jerry Spickerman

**Program Technicians:**  
Cheryl Rathbun  
Amy Dull

**Next County Committee Meeting:**  
May 15\* at 1:00 pm  
(\*Tentatively)

### COC Election Results

The ballots have been counted and congratulations to Dave Leuenberger for being elected to the County Committee as a member representing farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1: Warren, Jerome, Edenville, Lincoln, Hope and Mills.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Now serving on the Midland County Committee are:  
Jack Terwillegar - Chairperson, Jackie Beougher - Vice Chair, Dave Leuenberger - Member and Megan Shaffner - Advisor

We would like to give Scott Maxwell a special "Thank You" for his service of 3 terms, (9 years) of dedication as a member of the Midland County Committee.

### Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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## Livestock Producers Affected by Severe Weather Urged to Keep Good Records

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) again appeals to livestock producers affected by natural disasters such as the drought in the West and the unexpected winter storm in the upper Midwest to keep thorough records. This includes livestock and feed losses, and any additional expenses that are a result of losses to purchased forage or feed stuff.

In addition to western drought and the early-winter snowstorms, there are a variety of disasters from floods to storms to unexpected freezes. Each event causes economic consequences for farmers and ranchers throughout the United States. FSA recommends that owners and producers 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;
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters; and
- Evidence of damaged farm land.

Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans. For information about USDA's Farm Bill implementation plan, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

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## Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

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## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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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).