



Monroe County FSA

April 2012

USDA Service Center
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Monroe, Michigan 48161

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[See extensions below]
(734) 241-9432 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monroe Staff

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Executive Director (Ext.107)

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Manager (Lenawee County)

Dates to Remember

May 28— Office closed
Memorial Day
May 31- Last day to request feed
grain/oilseed commodity loans for
2011 crop
June 1— DCP signup ends
June 1— SURE Disaster Program
deadline
June 30 — Deadline to report fall-
seeded crops
July 15 — Deadline to report spring-
seeded crops
15 days after weather event:
Report NAP losses to FSA office

Continuing – Farm Storage Facility
Loans

Continuing – Continuous
Conservation Reserve Program &
CRP-SAFE

Do you have failed wheat?

Producers have until **June 30th 2012** to report planted and/or failed wheat acres to the FSA office for the 2012 crop year. Failed crops consist of acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions (i.e. excessive rain), the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Failed crops must be reported to FSA before disposition of the crop.

Any “re-planting” of wheat on failed acres must also be reported by this June 30th deadline.

Spring-Seeded Crop Reporting

Reminder: All spring-seeded crops (i.e. corn, soybeans, vegetables, etc.) and acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) must be reported to the FSA office by **July 15th 2012**. If the crops are not planted by this date, they must be reported within “15 calendar days after planting is completed”.

Prevented Planting Deadline

Producers with prevented planted acres must report these acres to the FSA office within 15 days of the final plant dates established by crop insurance. For 2012, prevented corn must be reported by June 20th and prevented soybeans by June 30th. A valid acreage report and approved CCC-576 form are required for county committee to approve the prevented acreage.

Date Reminders for NAP Producers

- To be eligible for a NAP payment, a Notice of Loss form must be signed and filed with FSA **within 15 days after a valid weather event** for a NAP crop.
- NAP crops are **REQUIRED** to be certified by the July 15th deadline, regardless of whether a loss is filed that year.

DCP Deadline Approaching!

The deadline for farmers to sign up for the 2012 crop year Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is June 1st 2012. Participating farmers are urged to call the Monroe County FSA Office *as soon as possible* to set up their DCP appointment.

DCP/ACRE sign-up started later than usual this year on January 23rd 2012, but has maintained the same end date of June 1st 2012. With less than 7 weeks remaining in the sign-up period, the Monroe County FSA Office has only signed up approximately a third of our annual contracts to date. As we near the June 1st deadline, appointments will fill up quickly and producers must act now to make sure they don’t miss the deadline. This is the last year the DCP program has been authorized under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

As planting season gets underway, the spring months become one of the most demanding times of the year. However, it is a producer’s responsibility to timely sign up for this voluntary program. DCP enrollments cannot be accepted after the June 1st deadline.

Producers must let the FSA office know of any farm, operating, or ownership changes as soon as possible prior to their scheduled appointment. They must also bring in all updated leases. Producers are strongly encouraged to call the FSA office at (734) 241-8540 ext. 2 to set up an appointment. Some appointments may be available before 8:00am. Please call for availability.

Power of Attorney Signatures

Producers and landowners may elect to give “Power of Attorney” to someone to sign FSA papers on their behalf. An FSA-211 form must be filled out by the grantor in the office (or filled out at home, notarized, and sent back in to the office). Please contact the Monroe FSA office if you would like a copy of this form or if you have any questions on FSA Power of Attorney procedure.

NAP Production Reminder: All 2011 NAP production evidence must be supplied to the FSA office **before** 2012 crop year reporting can be completed! That means, before you can report your planted NAP crop, you **must provide production evidence for the 2011 harvested crop for it to be counted!**

February 2012 Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)

Program Payments

Dairy producers in Monroe County are now eligible to receive a MILC payment for the month of February 2012. The payment rate is \$0.3895043 per hundredweight.

The Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. Eligible dairy producers must commercially produce cow milk in the United States and market that milk. Those producers must also meet the minimum eligibility requirements for all programs, including highly erodible land compliance, wetland compliance, and adjusted gross income levels.



MILC payments are made on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by a dairy feed ration adjustment. Although milk prices have not fallen below the trigger price, the increase in feed prices has triggered payments for February 2012.

Producers with an approved CCC-580 on file and start month selected are eligible to receive payments, pending their total production for which payments have been made does not exceed the limit for FY 2012. The annual maximum eligible pound limit (on which payments have been issued) per dairy operation is 2,985,000 pounds of milk for FY 2012.

What kind of lease is acceptable to FSA?

Producers often ask for “lease” templates from the FSA office. Unfortunately, FSA cannot supply lease templates to producers, as leases are binding, legal documents that are outside the scope of our office. However, the DCP program does require the following information to be provided somewhere in the leasing document:

- Crop year (or years) for which the lease is valid.
 - If the lease is **multi-year**, the number of years must be listed.
 - If it is a **continuing lease**, the wording which allows for continuation past the terms of the lease in effect must include a “notification by date” (Month and day) disclosing the final date of termination.
- The **acres** under lease must be identified
 - An updated farm/tract number is sufficient
 - (If land is being sub-leased, the sub-lease must be approved by the landowner, operator, and other tenant)
- The terms of the lease (i.e. cash, barter, shares)
- **Signature, signature dates, and printed name** of each at the bottom (all owners, operators, sub-lessees, and other tenants on the farm)

If you question whether or not your lease is acceptable, please contact the Monroe County Farm Service Agency Office.

Farm-Stored Facility Loan (FSFL) Basic Requirements

Farm-stored facility loans are growing in popularity due to the low interest rates and need for additional commodity storage in Monroe County. The following is not a full listing, but rather a brief overview of basic requirements based on “frequently-asked” questions by producers. Please contact your FSA Office for detailed information and requirements.

-Loan limit is \$500,000 per loan on stand-alone structure (Loans \$50,000 or above require a real estate lien)
-Conventional cribs, bins, dryers, flat-type storage, oxygen-limiting structures, and cold storage structures are covered (must be <u>new</u> , <u>fixed</u> (immobile), and have a <u>15-year useful lifespan</u>)
-Producer must demonstrate the “need” for additional storage based on yield/production history (and ability to repay loan)
-Must have <u>crop insurance</u> on all commodities in the operation
-The loan must be approved by COC prior to construction (Allow up to 6 months for COC approval)
-Electrical service installation (to the box) is <u>NOT</u> covered
-All site preparation, sales tax, shipping, material, labor, electrical wiring, and concrete is covered
-Loans are 7, 10, or 12 years (based on the loan amount requested) with annual payments
-FSA will loan up to 85% of the total cost (The producer must provide paid-in-full receipts prior to loan disbursement)

Monroe COC 2nd Quarter 2012 Meeting

Due to federal budget constraints, FSA County Committee Meetings are held on a quarterly, rather than monthly, basis. Producers, landowners, and members of the public are permitted to attend discussions at the Regular Session.

The second quarter meeting for 2012 will be held on **Thursday, June 14th 2012** starting at **8:30 am**.

What is “PII”? How does FSA protect my personal information?

When you request information about a farm from the FSA office, you may often hear staff refer to “PII” and protecting producer information. PII stands for personally-identifiable information and is defined as “information that can be used to distinguish or trace identity. Inclusive of data that, when combined with other ID info, can be linked to a specific individual.”



The Privacy Act was passed in 1974 to protect certain personal information records kept by the United States federal government. The Privacy Act helped protect this information by identifying acceptable ways the information could be disclosed, could be used for official business, and should be secured with administrative and physical security controls.

Information that is protected includes the following: social security numbers, tax ID numbers, place and date of birth, mother’s maiden name, and financial history. Additionally, USDA protects producer phone numbers, addresses, emails, program involvement and payments earned, farm/tract information (ID numbers, ownership, operator, boundaries, acreage, cropping history, wetland information, etc.), and FSA involvement. Some of this information may be obtainable through other sources (i.e. county assessor, township hall, municipal records); however, FSA takes added measures to safeguard our producers’ information.

It is a top priority in FSA for producers and landowners to feel secure with their personal information and FSA involvement in voluntary programs. In an ever-changing world with fast-paced communications and security concerns, producers can have faith that FSA is protecting personal information in many ways. Password protection, email encryption, LincPass security cards, pin numbers, IT policies, lock-out mechanisms, safes, and office security measures all provide added security for producer information.

So next time you request information on a farm, understand the reasons behind the “added” measures of security we require. A valid lease, proper ownership, and/or permission of the owner to obtain PII about a property **is required** before any FSA program information can be provided.

Transitioning to Electronic Communication

Monroe County producers are strongly encouraged to provide valid **email addresses** to the FSA office in efforts to effectively and promptly deliver important news and updates. In the absence of bulk mailings and reminders, producers must be proactive in keeping up with program deadlines and updated information.

Producers may either call the office and request to submit this information or can provide an email address at the next office visit. These email addresses will be uploaded to a secured electronic email system that will distribute important reminders and updates via email. Updates will be sent approximately once or twice a month.

Please contact the Monroe FSA Office for additional information on this new electronic email delivery system.

Producers can also subscribe online or change subscription preferences at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe .



2010 SURE Program Deadline

Applications for disaster relief based on revenue losses under the 2010 SURE program must be signed and received by **June 1st 2012**.

The Monroe County FSA office has been compiling RMA information on producers with crop insurance coverage to determine if the requisite 10% production loss level has been met for any one crop. Monroe FSA staff will contact producers meeting the 10% loss threshold to request additional information.

However, if you had crop insurance in 2010, suffered a 10% production loss, and would like to see if you qualify for a payment now, please contact the Monroe FSA office.

SURE payments are calculated based on 60% of the difference between the SURE Guarantee and the Total Farm Revenue. A payment limitation of \$100,000 per program participant applies to the SURE program and related livestock disaster programs, including LIP, LFP, and ELAP. Further program information can be obtained at the Monroe FSA office.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating or help purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://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 website 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.

Conservation Programs

General Sign Up 43 ends on April 13th 2012. However, continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) are available after this deadline and throughout the year. Producers and/or landowners may call the office at any time to set up an appointment to review options. A few of the basic requirements are listed below:

- Enrolled land must have 4 out of 6 years cropping history between 2002-2007.
- Land must have been owned or operated for at least 12 months prior to enrollment.
- A producer must enroll land for 10-15 year contract terms.

The number of CRP acres enrolled in Monroe County has increased every year since inception in 1986, up to 3,003 acres enrolled as of 2011. At the 25th anniversary of the program, the need for the implementation of conservation practices remains strong. Contact Monroe FSA for additional information.



Selected Interest Rates for April 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Conservation Loans	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 yr	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10 yr	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 yr	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

If you are planning to tile, be sure to let the staff at your local FSA office know before you perform any drainage activities!

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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 20250-9410, 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.