



## Monroe County FSA

### October 2012

USDA Service Center  
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

(734) 241-8540 phone  
[See extensions below]  
(734) 241-9432 fax

[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

#### Hours

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

#### Monroe Staff

Christina L. Salenbien, County  
Executive Director (Ext.107)

Carole F. Bogoski, PT (Ext.110)  
Roger P. Bezek, PT (Ext.108)  
Dawn M. Pluff, PT (Ext.113)

Michael D. Jordon, Farm Loan  
Manager (Lenawee County)

#### Dates to Remember

**October 1** – 2008 Farm Bill expires

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** - Columbus Day  
(Office closed)

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>** - 2011 SURE Pro-  
gram sign up begins

**November 5-** COC election ballots  
mailed

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** - Deadline to report  
Prevent Plant wheat

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** - Certification Dead-  
line for **wheat, hay**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** -Deadline to return  
COC ballots for LAA #3

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Next COC Meeting  
& COC Election

**15 days after weather event:**  
Report NAP losses to FSA office

## Wheat/Hay Certification Deadline **COC Election Information!**

This year, the acreage report-  
ing/certification deadline dates have changed  
for fall-seeded grain and perennial crops, in-  
cluding hay and forage. **November 15<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
is the deadline to report wheat, hay, and fall-  
seeded grains.

Please note this is a change from previous  
years. The “old” reporting deadline for wheat was  
June 30<sup>th</sup>. Do not forget to report your **planted**  
wheat before **November 15<sup>th</sup>** and **prevented**  
**planted** wheat before **November 9<sup>th</sup>**!

## MILC Program Payments

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payments  
were issued for the months of February through  
August 2012. The payment rates were, as fol-  
lows:

- \$0.3895043 per cwt. for February 2012
- \$0.8262432 per cwt. for March 2012
- \$1.2109586 per cwt. for April 2012
- \$1.2164177 per cwt. for May 2012
- \$1.3677491 per cwt. for June 2012
- \$1.6381734 per cwt. for July 2012
- \$1.4760653 per cwt. for August 2012

The Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)  
compensates dairy producers when domestic milk  
prices fall below a specified level. However, with  
the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill, this program  
is **no longer available** after **September 30, 2012**.

## HWFR Claims Period Now Open

This process offers a voluntary alternative to liti-  
gation for each Hispanic or female farmer and  
rancher who can prove that USDA denied their  
applications for loan or loan servicing assistance  
for discriminatory reasons for certain time peri-  
ods between 1981 and 2000. The deadline to file  
a claim is **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

Please contact the following with inquiries:

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

The Monroe County Committee (COC)  
elections will be conducted for Local Admin-  
istrative Area (LAA) #3 (consisting of  
Dundee, Raisinville, Frenchtown, Monroe,  
and LaSalle Townships). Two (2) nominees  
are up for election: incumbent **Richard**  
**Janssens** and **Thomas Horney**. Ballots will be  
mailed out to producers and landowners in  
LAA#3 on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2012. Please follow  
the instructions, properly fill out your ballot,  
and return it to the Monroe FSA Office before  
close of business on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012**.

Remember, your vote counts! Get involved  
in how USDA FSA programs are administered  
in Monroe County.

## 2012 CRP and DCP Payments

Annual program payments for both the  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and  
Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)  
will be issued during the beginning of Octo-  
ber. Batch payment processes will run so  
payments can be certified/signed on **October**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** for **CRP** and **October 9<sup>th</sup>** for **DCP**.

Please note: Batch payments will only be  
issued to producers who have completed all  
necessary eligibility paperwork. If you have  
not completed your eligibility or CCC-931  
“Average Adjusted Gross Income” form,  
please do so **ASAP** to avoid missing out on  
program payments.

Non-batch payments will be issued at later  
date, as required documentation is provided.

The next scheduled COC meeting will be  
**December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 8:30am**. Producers,  
landowners, and the general public are  
permitted to attend the regular session  
meeting. Executive session is limited to  
only attendance by COC members.

COC Election votes will be counted at this  
meeting.

## **Impacts of the 2008 Farm Bill Expiration**

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, some FSA programs (including those covering livestock and crop disaster) utilized by Monroe County farmers are already ineffective for losses suffered after September 30, 2011:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

However, as of **October 1st 2012**, the authority for funding [Under the Food, Farm, and Jobs Act] which allows USDA to operate a number of current programs has expired:



- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)**
- Program Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and Eligibility**
- Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)**

This means that previously-approved contracts and/or payments will continue to be funded, but no new applications can be approved until further notification.

Please note the following programs are authorized under separate legislation and will continue, uninterrupted:



- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL)
- RMA Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP)
- Crop Certification/Reporting
- Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

According to our Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia in Washington, D.C.:

*“USDA is committed to carrying out its program authority to the greatest extent possible, but upon expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill the Department’s authority to deliver programs will remain very limited until Congressional passage of a new Food, Farm and Jobs Act or other statutory extension of USDA’s program authority.”*

## **Farm Safety**

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA encourages all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first!

## **NAP Producers**

Don't forget to provide production records for your 2012 crops after harvest! Production must be provided in order to properly calculate approved production history (APH) yields. FSA encourages producers to bring this in as soon as it is available. Production records for 2012 crops cannot be accepted for NAP APH purposes after 2013 crop certification is complete.



## **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



## **Electronic Services Available**

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA e-Authentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/) followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

## **Farm Record Changes**

If you have any farm changes, now is the time to come into our office to make those changes. Any change in land ownership, land rental agreements or a change in your farming operation for example a LLC, Corporation or Trust should be reported as soon as possible. Remember: Without updated ownership information (from a **tax bill** or a **deed**) and a lease, you cannot be listed as an operator on a farm!

## **2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-Up to Begin**

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning **October 22, 2012**. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the **June 7, 2013** deadline.

During 2011, several Michigan counties received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Monroe County FSA office at: 734-241-8540, ext. 2 or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

## **Farm Loan Programs**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant to extend or renew a loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Michael Jordon, Farm Loan Manager for Monroe County, at the Lenawee FSA Office (517) 263-7400 ext. 2.

## **Important Deadlines**

**October 8, 2012** - Office closed in observance of Columbus Day

**November 1, 2012** - Final date to provide milk production for MILC program.

**November 15, 2012** – Wheat, small grain and forage crops must be certified at your local FSA office. \*This is a change for the 2013 crop year, please mark your calendars. **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**– Deadline to report prevented planted **wheat**.

**July 15, 2013** – ACRE farms must submit all 2012 production. \*If you have production records readily available after harvest we will gladly accept production evidence early.

**From the CED's desk:**

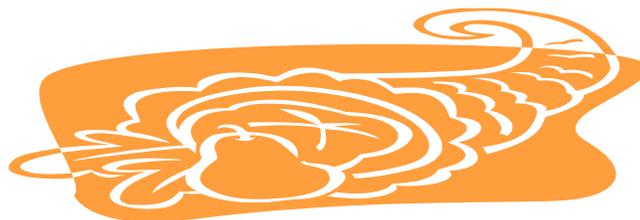
It's that time of the year again! Combines out in the field and semi-trucks hauling grain remind us that harvest is upon us. Here in the office, we have just started winding down from our "busiest season" of certification and DCP program deadlines.

Aside from the uncertainties of the new Farm Bill, we are strongly encouraging producers to report their 2013 crops and keep up with all farm changes (ownership, leases, etc.). With USDA's "Blueprint for Stronger Service" Initiative, FSA has succeeded in FY2012 in our best efforts to reduce costs and better serve our producers. Electronic newsletters and bulletins are the best method to get information out to farmers and landowners. So continue to watch your email and encourage others to sign up for our updates.

Just like you, we will be closely watching developments in Congress to establish a new Farm Bill. Have a safe and successful harvest!

Sincerely,  
*Christie* & the Monroe Staff

<b>Selected Interest Rates for October 2012</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership- Direct Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.125%
Conservation Loans	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 yr	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10 yr	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 yr	2.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%



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