

April 2014



# NEWSLETTER



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## Monroe County FSA Updates

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### Monroe County FSA Office

1137 S. Telegraph Road  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Phone: 734-241-8540  
Fax: 855-662-9275

**County Executive Director:**  
Christina L. Salenbien

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Michael Jordon

**Program Technicians:**  
Dawn M. Pluff  
Roger P. Bezek

**County Committee Members:**  
Richard Janssens, Chair  
Mary Webb  
Herbert Smith  
William Gay, Advisor

**Next County Committee Meeting:** April 17th at 8:30am

### Be prepared for the new Farm Bill!

In light of the new 2014 Farm Bill approved on February 7, 2014, new farm programs are beginning to take shape here at FSA. Updated program information is being relayed to FSA county offices as it becomes available. Being at the forefront of new and exciting programs, it is important to have your farm records updated **NOW**. With a significantly reduced staff in the Monroe office, we strive to provide the best customer service possible. However, waiting to report farm changes until you come in for a program sign-up or certification will delay this process for both you and other producers. We encourage you to come visit us now to report these (and any other) changes:

- Change in **ownership** or land transfer (via deed or land contract)
- Picked up/dropped a **farm or tract**
- **Operation change** from an individual to an LLC, INC, partnership, etc.
- **Clearing** stumps, dredging, new drainage, etc.
- **Boundary** changes
- **Bank account** change

Give us a call at the Monroe office to set up an appointment to report these changes. **Don't wait until acreage reporting!**

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### Questions about Farm Loans?

Please be sure to contact our friendly and helpful farm loan staff at (517) 263-7400. Michael Jordon is the FSA Farm Loan Manager (FLM) covering Monroe, Lenawee, and Wayne/Washtenaw Counties and is located at 1100 Sutton Road, Adrian, MI 49221.

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## LIP, LFP, ELAP, and TAP Program Sign-Up Begins April 15th

Beginning Tuesday, April 15, 2014, livestock, honeybee, and fruit growers can sign-up for a series of disaster-related programs geared toward producers who have endured significant financial hardship from weather-related disasters.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Enrollment also begins on April 15 for producers with losses covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

- [LIP](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible livestock includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary.
- [LFP](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on publicly managed land. An eligible livestock producer must own, cash lease, or be a contract grower of eligible livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2, D3, or D4.
- [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, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- [TAP](#) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees have worked exceptionally hard over the past two months to ensure eligible farmers and ranchers would be able to enroll to receive disaster relief on April 15.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to **collect records** documenting these losses in preparation for the enrollment in these disaster assistance programs. Information on the types of records necessary can be provided by local FSA county offices. Producers also are encouraged to contact their county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

For more information, producers may review the [2014 Farm Bill Fact Sheet](#), LIP, LFP, ELAP, and TAP fact sheets online (hyperlinked above), or visit any local FSA office or USDA Service Center.

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## Dairy Producers: MILC and DIPP Have Been Extended

The **Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program** has been extended! This program protects dairy farmers against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP) is operational.

If you were enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, your contract will be automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketing's is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

**Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014.**

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available.

Additionally, the 2014 Farm Bill authorized the extension of the **Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP)** through September 30, 2018. DIPP provides payments to dairy producers and manufacturers of dairy products when they are directed to remove their raw milk or products from the market because of contamination.

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## **USDA Sets Date for Soybean Request for Referendum**

USDA will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

Soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the Soybean Checkoff Program are invited to participate. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2013.

Producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from FSA county offices starting on May 5, 2014 through May 30, 2014. Forms are also available on the [AMS website](#). Producers who don't participate in FSA programs can still request a referendum at the FSA county office where they own or rent land.

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate FSA county office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 30, 2014. If returned by mail, it must be postmarked by midnight May 30, 2014, and received in the office by close of business on June 5, 2014.

Notice of the Request for Referendum will be published in the March 4, 2014, Federal Register. For more information, visit the [AMS website](#) or contact James Brow, Research and Promotions Branch; Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2610-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-0633.

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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).