

May 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:** June 12th at 8:30am

### 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop certification report. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Monroe County:

- **July 15th** - Spring seeded grains and spring planted row crops
- **August 15th** - Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20)
- **September 30th** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, floriculture, mushrooms, nursery (ornamental and non-ornamental) & turfgrass sod
- **November 15th** - Perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains
- **January 2nd** - Honey (number of colonies)
- **January 15th** - Apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1st** - Maple sap (number of eligible trees and taps)

Please be sure to **call the Monroe FSA office to schedule up an appointment** to certify your 2014 spring-seeded crops!

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### Contractor for Monroe Wetland Appeals

Just as a note to producers who have submitted a Reconsideration Request (appeal) to NRCS regarding a Certified Wetland Determination: You may receive a call from a member of the **AEM Group** (Plymouth, MI) regarding your wetland appeal. AEM Group has a contract with NRCS to complete assigned wetland delineations for NRCS reconsideration requests. The agreement requires AEM Group to contact appellants in advance as a courtesy. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact us.

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## Crop Insurance Information

Recent changes to policy allow FSA to provide one (1) copy of a producer's current year FSA-578 acreage report to a crop insurance agent at no charge. Any subsequent or additional copies will be charged to the agent at the following rates:

- FSA-578 Producer Print - **\$0.20 per page**
- hard copy map - **\$1.00 per page**

As always, a producer may request a copy of his/her map or Producer Print at no charge to be received by the **producer**.

The crop insurance agent request for these documents **must** be completed on (REVISED FORM) FSA-426 by the crop insurance agent and accompanied with 1 or more of the following:

- **Producer signed policy document**
- **Producer signed transfer/application policy document**
- **Schedule of Insurance**
- **Notice of Acceptance/Policy Confirmation**
- **Summary of Insurance Protection**
- **Signed statement** from the producer authorizing release of documents to the named crop insurance company and/or agent.

If you have any questions about this process or what kind of documentation will be accepted by our office, please contact us.

Note: Previous years' certifications and maps are not included in this policy. According to Privacy Act requirements, a producer must request this information or provide the appropriate written statement releasing this information to a crop insurance agent.

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## Youth Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Please call or stop by the Lenawee County office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## GovDelivery Customers Are NOT Affected by Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

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## USDA Soybean Request for Referendum Details

USDA is offering 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 January 1, 2012 through December 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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## May Interest Rates

- **90 Day Treasury Bill** - 0.125%
- **Farm Operating Loan - Direct** - 2.125%
- **Farm Ownership Loans - Direct** - 4.000%
- **Farm Ownership Loans - Joint Financing** - 2.500%
- **Limited Resource Loans** - 5.000%
- **Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Pymt.** - 1.500%
- **Emergency Loans** - 3.125%
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Yr.** - 2.250%
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Yr.** - 2.750%
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans - 12 Yr.** - 2.875%
- **Commodity Loans** - 1.125%

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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).