

June 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Monroe County FSA Updates

Monroe County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Christina L. Salenbien

Farm Loan Manager:
Michael Jordon

Program Technicians:
Dawn M. Pluff
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County Committee Members:
Richard Janssens, Chair
Mary Webb
Herbert Smith
William Gay, Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: August 7th at 8:30am

Prevented Planting Acres

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop because of a natural disaster.

The Monroe County Committee has not identified any widespread prevented planting conditions applicable to the county for 2014. Therefore, **if you plan on certifying prevented acres with FSA, you must supply COC with sufficient documentation of intent to plant (i.e. seed receipts, fertilizer bills, herbicides, tillage, etc.) for the acres in question.**

Final planting dates for crops in Michigan:

- **May 20, 2014:** Oats and Sugar Beets (Deadline date to file for prevented planting is **June 4, 2014**)
- **May 31, 2014** for (SPR) Barley (Deadline Date to file for prevented planting is **June 15, 2014**)
- **June 5, 2014** for Corn (Deadline Date to file for prevented planting is **June 20, 2014**)
- **June 15, 2014** for Soybeans (Deadline Date to file for prevented planting is **June 30, 2014**)

Ineligible acreage for Prevented Planting includes (but is not limited to) acreage:

- Not planted because of a management decision
- Affected by chemical and herbicide residue
- Where the producer was unable to find a market for the crop
- Affected by the wildlife damage

To be considered timely filed, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage on form FSA-578 and complete form CCC-576, Part B within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

After form CCC-576 is submitted, it cannot be withdrawn or revised.

Time to Certify your Crops!

Please call our office to set up an appointment to certify your crops! Enrollment in most FSA programs requires you to certify your crops annually.

With a greatly reduced office staff, appointments are filling up fast! Call now to make sure that you report timely before the **July 15th 2014** deadline.

Microloans Available

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with **credit needs of \$35,000 or less**. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact FSA Farm Loan Manager Michael Jordon at (517) 263-7400 to set up an appointment.

Don't Mow Your CRP!

Filter strips devoted to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are set aside to filter out sediment, pesticides, herbicides, and associated field nutrients to protect the farm's water resources. These practices are specifically designed to grow undisturbed during crucial times of the year when natural resources are most vulnerable. **This is why unauthorized mowing from May 1 - July 31 is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. In addition, complete mowing of filter strips for cosmetic purposes is never permitted and a violation of CRP rules.** Spot-treatment is allowed between August 1 - August 20 or upon request from the Monroe County Committee (COC).

If you have submitted a written request to the Monroe COC and were approved to spot-mow, only the areas of concern must be treated.

COC Election Nomination Period

The Monroe County Committee (COC) Election process has begun! As of June 16th, the Monroe FSA Office is now accepting nominations for individuals who wish to serve on the Monroe COC for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 (**Bedford, Erie, Ida, Summerfield and Whiteford Townships**). If you are a farmer or landowner from one of these townships, we encourage you to get involved with FSA's County Committee system. Please contact our office for more information or to obtain an FSA-669A Nomination form.

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).