



NEWSLETTER



April 2013

Newaygo/Muskegon County FSA Office

940 West Rex Street
Fremont, MI 49412

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www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

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

County Executive Director:

David Bain

Program Technicians:

Kathy Nelson
Lisa Smalligan

County Committee:

Brian Abbott
Steve Boluyt
Dennis Sikkenga
David Stout
Craig Zeerip
Jean Stroven, Advisor

Farm Loan Managers:

Paul Wagner, Muskegon
Phone: (616)842-5852

Larry Cleary, Newaygo
Phone: (231)796-2659

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Status

The MILC software is currently unavailable for issuing payments. When the software is available, we will make the payments. Be sure you have your milk production receipts turned in to the office. The MILC program for FY 2013 has posted a payment for the following months:

October 2012	\$0.0236798
November 2012	\$0.00
December 2012	\$0.00
January 2013	\$0.1179986
February 2013	\$0.5222389

Wetland Provisions

Potential violations of the wetland rules include bringing new land into production by clearing trees (including fence rows) or improving drainage by tiling or dredging. **Before you BEGIN any of these projects, you need to fill out form AD-1026.**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will complete a certified evaluation of the tract to determine if there are areas that are wet and highly erodible. This process takes **at least 60 days** to complete. NRCS will notify you by mail of the results.

With the new mapping system, updated imagery clearly shows where land has been cleared or drained. The penalty for a wetland violation can be loss of **all** USDA benefits back to the year of conversion. By checking with our office before you start a project, you can remain in compliance and avoid the penalties. Plan ahead, sign form AD-1026 and get your determination completed before clearing trees and/or tiling.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013, and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

CRP Sign-Up Starts Soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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New Crop Certification Deadlines

2013 Crop Year and Continuing

Due to changes in program provisions it is even more important for producers to timely file crop acreage reports on their farms.

Crop acreage reports are essential to maintain eligibility for multiple FSA programs, and to establish a record of historical cropping. Farm Bill legislation continues the crop reporting requirement.

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares. Prevented planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date. Failed acres must be reported to FSA within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent for non-insurable crops and prior to disposition of the crop.

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod

Late Fees:

Due to changes in program provisions for timely-filed crop reports, late fees for 2013 Crop Year Certifications will be waived. No such provision currently exists for the following crop year; **beginning with the November 15, 2013** deadline for 2014 Crop Year Perennial Forage certifications a late fee will be assessed.

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 20th** - 45th CRP Sign-up begins
- **May 27th** - Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- **May 31st** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grain, oilseed loan or LDP
- **June 3rd** - 2013 ACRE Sign-up ends
- **June 7th** - 2011 SURE Sign-up ends
- **June 14th** - CRP Sign-up ends
- **July 4th** - Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- **July 15th** - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program
- **July 15th** - 2013 crop reporting deadline
- **August 2nd** - 2013 DCP Sign-up ends