

October 2013



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## Presque Isle-Cheboygan County FSA Updates

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### Presque Isle-Cheboygan County FSA Office

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Onaway, MI. 49765

Phone: 989-733-2694  
Fax: 855-662-9277 (**NEW**)

**County Executive Director:**  
Carmen A. Church

**Program Technicians:**  
Robin Grainger

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Betty Garrett  
Phone: 989-356-3596

**Next County Committee  
Meeting: December 4, 2013 at  
10:30 a.m.**

### Important Dates and Reminders

**November 4th** COC Ballots mailed out

**November 11th** Veterans Day Holiday – Office closed

**November 15th** Deadline to certify fall-seeded small grains, including winter wheat and perennial forage (alfalfa and mix)

**November 20th** Deadline to apply for NAP Policies for all perennial crops

**November 28th** Thanksgiving Holiday – Office closed

**December 1st** Deadline to apply for NAP Policies for honey and maple sap

**December 2nd** Last day to return completed COC ballots

**December 25th** Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

**January 1st** New Year's Day Holiday – Office Closed

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## NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for 2014 NAP coverage is November 20th, 2013, for fall wheat, fall rye (any fall perennial crops); all hay/forage crops; and December 1st, 2012, for honey and maple sap.

Producers who already have coverage on 2013 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2014, as long as the applicable service fee is submitted by the application deadline date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage, or need to change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee by the deadline date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide acceptable production evidence which is verifiable/reliable through appraisals or contemporaneous records (i.e. bale weights, number of bales, calendars, etc.)
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

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## 2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is December. 2, 2013.

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## 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Payments

The Presque Isle-Cheboygan County FSA office will begin distributing 2013 direct (DCP) payments as early as October 25. Payments were originally scheduled to be issued earlier in October; however, they were delayed by several days due to the lapse in Federal funding.

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, requires a reduction in most federal payments obligated in 2013, which is known as a sequester. Direct payments issued under the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will be reduced 8.6 percent due to sequester-related reductions.

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## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Payment Update

The Presque Isle-Cheboygan County FSA office has begun distributing the annual Conservation Reserve Program payments. As was the case with the DCP payments, CRP payments were originally scheduled to be issued earlier in October; however, they were delayed by several days due to the lapse in Federal funding.

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## Fall Crop Certification Deadline

**NOVEMBER 15, 2013 - Producers** Take Notice – All Perennial Forage (Hay and Pasture), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains need to be certified for the 2014 growing season by NOVEMBER 15, 2013. **NOTE: A late filing fee will apply if these crops are not reported by November 15, 2013.**

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