

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Saginaw County FSA Updates

Saginaw County FSA Office

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Phone: 989-781-1720
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County Executive Director:
Dennis S. Curtiss

Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Jerry Spickerman

Program Technicians:
Mary Urbanke
Ronda Hildebrandt
Michelle Fauver
Cindy Jones
Kathy Wirostek

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

County Committee
Wayne Squanda, Chairman
Brian Frederick, Vice Chair
MaryAnn Weisenberger, Mem.
Jane Casassa, Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: June 12 at 9:00 am

Soybean Request for Referendum

The USDA Farm Service Agency is accepting Soybean Request For Referendum documents through May 30, 2014. The United Soybean Board administers, a coordinated promotion and research program designed to expand uses of soybeans and soy products. Eligible voters must have produced soybeans and paid an assessment in 2012 or 2013. Producers who desire a referendum shall participate. Form LS-51-1 can be obtained by mail, fax or in person from FSA County offices and should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Saginaw County Is Eligible For Emergency Loans

Saginaw County was declared a contiguous disaster county due to physical damage and losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, high winds, hail, lightning and tornado like conditions that occurred from April 12, 2014 through April 15, 2014. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration (until January 5, 2015) to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Other eligibility requirements apply.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit our website on [Emergency Loans](#).

Important Crop Reporting Deadline Dates

- **July 15, 2014** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and hops
- **August 15, 2014** - Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20), processing beans
- **November 15, 2014** - Perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains
- **January 15, 2014** - Apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops

2013 ACRE

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports for planted acres that must be submitted for the covered commodities and peanuts planted on the farm by **July 15, 2014**. Failure to report production for those covered commodities planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination. If the contract is terminated, all payments, including direct payments previously received plus interest will be required to be refunded.

Livestock/Honey Bee Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011. To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must be physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015. Mecosta and surrounding counties were not eligible for LFP in the crop years of 2012 and 2013.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

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. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#).

GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by Heartbleed bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are 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>.

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).