

September 2012



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St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Office

2830 Wadhams Rd
Kimball, MI 48074-1403

Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30
P.M. Monday thru Friday

Phone: 810-984-3865 x2
Fax: 810-984-2345

County Executive Director:
Dean E. Forrester

Program Technicians:
Brenda Boyd
Ellen Wilson
Steve Simmons
Karla Frammolino

Farm Loan Officer:
Teresa Stewart
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Disaster Declaration and Emergency Loans

As of August 30th, 2012, the entire state of Michigan was declared a primary natural disaster area using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process.

The disaster designation was a direct result of several program improvements announced by Secretary Vilsack on July 11, 2012. The program improvements include a streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process that automatically qualifies a disaster county once it is categorized as a severe drought for eight weeks according to the U.S Drought Monitor. Other improvements include a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that lowers the rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent.

All Michigan counties are eligible to apply for low-interest emergency (EM) loans. Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine. The current emergency loan interest rate as of September 1st is 2.125 percent.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Emergency loan applications will be accepted through April 30, 2013, for production and physical losses.

New Acreage Certification Deadlines!

Farmers in St Clair and Macomb Counties must now adhere to new crop certification dates for the Farm Service Agency. These certification dates have changed to more closely align with reporting deadlines for crop insurance. The following dates have changed for St Clair and Macomb producers:

- November 15th 2012: Deadline to certify fall-seeded small grain and perennial forage (i.e. wheat, hay)
- January 15th 2013: Deadline to certify perennial crops (i.e. apples, grapes, peaches, blueberries)

Producers are strongly required to report their acres for program participation, before the deadlines listed above. Please contact the St Clair/Macomb FSA office with any questions.

NAP Production Records

NAP Producers: Please remember to provide your 2012 production records to the St Clair/Macomb FSA office as soon as available after harvest. These production records will be utilized to calculate each producer's approved production history (APH) for crop year 2013 and in determining if you have a qualifying loss if a CCC-576 "Notice of Loss" is on file for a crop(s) for 2012..

Also note: Any producer filing a CCC-576 "Notice of Loss" MUST have a post-harvest appraisal of all hand-harvested crops. Please let the FSA office know as soon as harvest is complete.

FSA Guaranteed Loan Program Update and Increased Loan Limits

According to national figures, it was announced that guaranteed farm ownership loan funds for Fiscal Year 2012 have been exhausted. Guaranteed farm ownership funds for Fiscal Year 2013 should be available in early October 2012.

USDA-FSA Dairy Producer Deadline To Report Production- November 1, 2012.

The current milk support program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices adjusted for feed cost fall below a specified level. This program has been in place for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, and will end September 30th 2012. Participating dairy producers submit production evidence and receive payments accordingly. Eligible milk producers that participate in the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program **must** provide final production evidence and supporting documentation by November 1, 2012. For more clarification on the MILC Program, please contact your local FSA office St. Clair/Macomb FSA Office 810 984-3865x2.

St. Clair/Macomb County Committee

Ronald Beier - Chairperson

John Busemann - Member

Jeff Brown - Member

James Koss - Member

Gerald Opificius - Member

Loretta Domagalski - Advisor

Important Dates to Remember

October 8, 2012 - Office Closed in observance of Columbus Day

November 1, 2012 - Last day to report Dairy Production

November 15, 2012 - Last day to certify Fall Seeded Crop

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