

August 2013



St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Updates

St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Office **2014 NAP Sales Closing Dates**

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Next County Committee Meeting:

September 18, 2013 at 9:00 AM

St. Clair/Macomb County Committee:

Ronald Beier - Chairman
John Busemann - Member
James Koss - Member
Charles Lewis - Member
Gerald Opificius - Member
Loretta Domagalski - Advisor

Policies for the 2014 crop year need to be purchased by the following sales closing dates. Keep in mind that policies are considered purchased once the fee for coverage is received and the policy for coverage is signed.

Also any change to a policy requires a signature by the sales closing date!!

September 1, 2013 – Christmas Trees

September 30, 2013 – fall seeded grains and any forages including spring planted oats

November 20, 2013 – strawberries and caneberries

December 1, 2013 – Honey and Maple Sap

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

MILC Production Deadline

Final production evidence for MILC program payments **MUST** be received in this office by **Close of Business**, November 1, 2013. All production evidence for milk produced during the months of October 2008 through September 2013 for which a payment was available must be received in this office by 11-1-2013 if not previously submitted. Any production for which there is a payment available that is received after November 1, 2013 **will not be paid**.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

DCP Deadline

The sign-up period for 2013 DCP (Direct and Counter-cyclical Program) has been extended through Sept. 16, 2013. Local FSA offices are still permitted to enroll farms in the 2013 DCP or accept late signatures on these contracts until Sept. 16, 2013. Please contact your local office if you have missed getting your signature on the 2013 DCP contracts for farms in which you have an interest or have failed to enroll farms with a crop acreage base into the program.

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).