

January 2014



**Topics for January 2014**

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- 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES
- MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MAL)
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## St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Updates

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### St. Clair/Macomb County FSA Office **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

2830 Wadhams Rd  
Kimball, MI 48074-1403  
Phone: 810-984-3865 x2  
Fax: 855-657-0711

**New ballots were mailed to producers on December 20, 2013.** These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

**County Executive Director:**  
Dean E Forrester

**The corrected ballot must be returned to the St Clair/Macomb County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014.** All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expired on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
David J Hemker  
Phone: 810-664-0895 x2

**Program Technicians:**  
Brenda Boyd  
Ellen Wilson  
Steve Simmons  
Karla Frammolino

County Committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

**Farm Loan Program Technician:**  
Susan Swosinski

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

**St. Clair/Macomb County Committee:**

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

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> or at a local USDA Service Center.

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

January 22, 2014 at 9:00 AM

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## LDPS FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2014, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2013 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

- To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

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## 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the St Clair/Macomb County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for St Clair/Macomb Counties:

January 15, 2014: Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, Strawberries

February 1, 2014: Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and Taps)

July 15, 2014: Cabbage (Planted 3/31-5/31), Beans (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Kidney, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, Small White/Navy, Tebo, Yellow Eye), Forage Seeding, all other crops

August 15, 2014: Beans (all other types), Cabbage (Planted 6/1-7/20)

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the St Clair/Macomb County FSA office at 810 984-3865 Ext. 2.

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## **MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MAL)**

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

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## **FARMING OPERATION CHANGES**

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

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## **BREAKING NEW GROUND**

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

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## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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## **JANUARY 2014 INTEREST RATES**

90-Day Treasury Bill - .125%

Farm Operating Loans — Direct - 1.875%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct - 4.125%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%

Emergency Loans - 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.25%

Sugar Storage Facility Loans - 3.375%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present -1.125%

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday – Offices Closed

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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).