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Wexford/Benzie/Missaukee/Osceola County FSA

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Wexford/Benzie/ Missaukee/Osceola Counties

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New Crop Reporting Deadlines for 2013

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the establishment of 15 common Acreage Reporting Dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers participating in their programs. The common reporting dates will reduce the reporting burden on producers and also help to reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data across participating agencies. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) each rely on ARDs to administer their programs.

For crop year 2013, these are the new Michigan crop reporting deadlines:

- **November 15th 2012** - perennial forage, fall wheat and other fall-seeded small grains
- **January 15th 2013** - apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches
- **July 15th 2013** - spring barley, early cabbage, corn, forage seeding, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, potatoes, and all other crops.
- **August 15th 2013** - cabbage planted 6/1-7/20 and processing beans

Many producers now have multiple reporting deadlines. The first being November 15th on hay and fall planted fields and again on July 15th, for annual spring planted crops.

Stop in at your local FSA before deer season to report next years' forage fields.

Emergency Loans

Multiple Disaster Designations have been issued affecting Michigan counties. Area counties have been designated eligible for Emergency farm loans. The loans cover losses caused by the combined effects of several weather events during the winter and spring of 2012, and continuing, including excessive heat, drought and frost/freeze. Qualifying producers may receive Emergency Loans at an interest rate of 2.125%. To be eligible, a farm must have suffered at least a 30% loss in one of its major crops, due to one of the covered perils and be unable to obtain similar financing from a commercial lender (other eligibility requirements also apply). Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2013, or April 29, 2013, depending on the

cause of the loss. If you have any questions regarding Emergency Loans or other FSA Farm Loan Programs, please contact our office.

M.I.L.C. Program

USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC), administered by the Farm Service Agency's (FSA), compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized MILC through Sept. 30, 2012. Eligible producers should continue to submit their current MILC statements to the local FSA office for payment.

Final production evidence for program payment **must** be received in the County Office by **November 1, 2012**.

Crop Insurance now covers Sweet Cherries in Benzie and Manistee Counties

For crop year 2013, sweet cherry producers in Benzie, Manistee, Oceana, Antrim and Mason Counties have the option of purchasing crop insurance on their crop. It is an Actual Revenue History policy which has some differences from Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) previously purchased from the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Because it is a pilot policy and CAT coverage is not available from crop insurance, you may still choose to insure your sweet cherries with the FSA with the NAP program.

Contact a crop insurance representative to receive details on their program.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Deadlines to Remember:

September 30th - ACRE deadline to designate planted acres
September 30th - NAP, purchase coverage on forage fields
November 1st - Final day to submit milk receipts for MILC program
November 15th - Crop reporting deadline for perennial forages and fall planted crops
November 20th - NAP, purchase deadline for perennial fruits and vegetables
December 1st - NAP, purchase deadline for honey and maple sap
January 15th - Crop reporting deadline for apple, cherries, grapes and peaches
March 15th - NAP, purchase deadline for annual crops

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