

February 28, 2013



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## Marion/Polk County FSA Newsletter

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### Marion-Polk County

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#### County Committee:

John Beitel - Chair  
Kirk Fast - Vice Chair  
Mike Atherton - Member  
Gary Butler - Member  
Leonard Gilson - Member  
Molly McCargar - Member

### County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to John Beitel and Leonard Gilson. Leonard was elected to represent farmers from the SW area of Polk County and John was elected to represent farms from the central area of Marion County on the Marion/Polk County Committee (COC).

FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The COC held their organizational meeting in February and determined the following positions: John Beitel, Chairperson; Kirk Fast, Vice-Chairperson; Mike Atherton, Member; Gary Butler, member; Leonard Gilson, member; and Molly McCargar, member.

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### DCP and ACRE Sign-Up

FSA began sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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## Dates To Remember

Mar 15	Last day to purchase NAP - Beans (FH), broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, sweet corn (FH), cucumbers, lentils, mustard, oats (hay), peas, potatoes, pumpkins, safflowers, sunflowers, squash, tomatoes, watermelons.
Mar 15	Last day to purchase crop insurance - AGR-Lite, barley, beans (PR), field corn for silage, sweet corn (PR), oats (grain)
May 15	Crop Reports due for fresh cabbage (planted 3/12 -4/20)
June 3	Last day to sign up for ACRE.
June 7	Last day to sign up for 2011 SURE
July 15	Final Acreage report deadline - all other crops
Aug 2	Last day to sign up for DCP.

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## New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25 %.) For more information contact Scott Neiman.

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## Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## Voting Area Boundary Changes for Combined Committee

The interim COC has proposed changes, at their meeting in February, for how the new combined county committee will be structured in 2014 after the combining of Marion and Polk Counties in 2013. The changes will be to a four member committee, with each county having two areas of representation. The new areas are: LAA 1: Portion of Marion Co. North of Hwy 213. LAA 2: Portion of Polk Co. North of Hwy 22 and West of Hwy 223. LAA 3: Portion of Polk Co. South of Hwy 22 and East of Hwy 223. LAA 4: Portion of Marion Co. S of Hwy 213. All four areas will be up for election later this year, with staggered terms, so the COC will get back into a normal rotation of one or two areas up for election each year. LAA 1 & 2 will be up as three year terms, LAA 3 will be up as the two year term and LAA 4 will be up as the one year term. If you are interested in seeing a map of the areas, please contact the office and a .jpeg file can be emailed out to you. There is also a map posted in the NRCS office in Dallas.

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## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of the weather event, within 15 day of the loss becoming evident or within 15 days of harvest. Between the loss becoming evident and harvest it is the earlier one that will prevail as the final date to file a notice of loss.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loans

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 7, 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **SURE Program Status**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011. To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have qualifying losses of at least 10 percent production loss affecting at least one crop of economic significance due to natural disaster on a farm in a disaster county.

Producers outside a declared disaster county are eligible if they experience production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production in the farm. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

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## **Actively Engaged**

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Each partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest must contribute active personal labor and/or active personal management to the farming operation on a regular basis. The contribution must be identifiable and documentable; as well as separate and distinct from the contributions made by any other partner, stockholder or member. If any partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest fails to meet this requirement, program payments will be reduced by the corresponding share held by that partner, stockholder or member. There is an exception allowed for legal entities, such as corporations, if total direct payments received both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and its members do not exceed \$40,000.

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