

December 2013



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## Barry County FSA Updates

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### December Topics

- New County Committee Election Ballots to be Mailed
  - Marketing Assistance Loans
  - 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates
  - Microloan Program
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#### Barry County FSA Office **New County Committee Election Ballots to be mailed**

1611 S. Hanover Street  
Hastings, MI 49058

Phone: 269-948-8037  
Fax: 855-647-4849

**County Executive Director:**  
Mark Van Buren

**Program Technicians:**  
Charlie Mater  
Peggy Papoi  
JoAnn Erway

**County Committee Members:**  
Tom Eckert-Chairman  
Darrell Newton-Vice Chairman  
Kenneth Osborne-Member  
Nianne Jarrard-Advisor

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Paul Wagner  
616-527-2098

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Sara Possehn

**Next County Committee Meeting:** January 22, 2014  
@9:00 am

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened. New ballots will be 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. The corrected ballot must be returned to the 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 expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

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### Marketing Assistance Loans

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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## 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Michigan:

November 15: Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains  
January 15: Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches  
July 15: Cabbage Planted 3/31-5/31, Beans (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, White/Navy, Tebo, Yellow Eye), Forage Seeding, all other crops  
August 15: Beans (all other), Cabbage (Planted 6/1-7/20)

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 County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Late file fees will be assessed for crops reported after the dates listed.

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## Microloan Program

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

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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