



June 2012
Issue #2, FY2012



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Delta/Schoolcraft/Alger/Marquette County News

USDA Service Center

Delta, Alger, Marquette
and Schoolcraft County
FSA (Delta COF)

2003 Minneapolis Avenue
Suite 102
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-428-1060 (phone)
906-428-1086 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

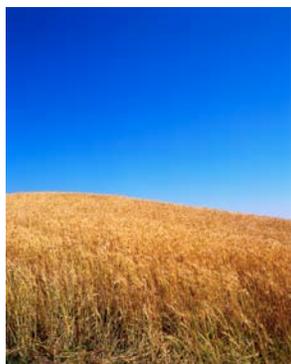
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Jon Haindl, Chairperson
Allen Porath, Vice-Chair
Heidi Heidtman, Member
Dan Bahrman, Member
John Wolf, Member
Diane Hanson, Advisor

Staff

Mitch Towne, CED
Kris Gallant, PT
Rita Mills, PT
Bruce Stephenson, FLM
Bonnie Richmond, FLPT
Clem Geiger, FL-STO



Email Address Request

As you visit the Farm Service Agency offices during crop certification, you will be asked for your email address. This is our only available means of communicating program information.

Press releases may be sent to our local news media sources, however many times they will not print our information. Agricultural issues are not normally pressing publications to them.

Please help us to ensure that our program delivery system does not fail. Your email addresses provided are to be used for FSA purposes only.

See below....

FSA is moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new EGovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Moving towards electronic publications will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

To sign up for EGovDelivery please access; <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

Check out Michigan's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

County Committee Elections

The Delta COF County Committee election will be held this year in Local Administrative Area 3 which includes the East end of Delta County to include the townships of: Masonville, Ensign, Bay De Noc, Nahma, Garden, and Fairbanks

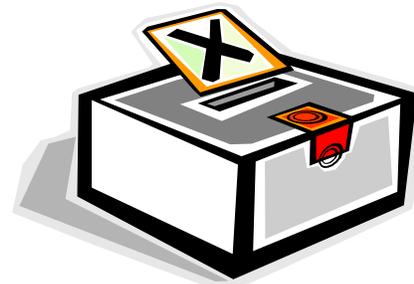
John Wolf currently serves in this position.

The Delta COF County Committee election will also be held this year in Local Administrative Area 4 which includes the West end of Delta County and a southern portion of Marquette County to include the townships of: (Marquette) Wells, and (Delta) Maple Ridge, Baldwin, Brampton, Cornell, Escanaba, Wells, Bark River, and Ford River

Allen Porath currently serves in this position.

Persons interested in being placed on the election ballot must submit form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for FSA Committee Election. The deadline to submit a petition is August 1, 2012.

A post card will be mailed to all eligible voters in those areas holding election as a reminder.



Milk Income Loss (MILC)

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment.

MILC Payments have been triggered for both February and March.

In order to receive payment, producers must submit their monthly milk production statements (usually starting with February 2012). New producers are encouraged to apply for the program any time before Sept. 30, 2012.

For more information go to:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=mpp-mi>



Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

PREVENTED PLANTING ACREAGE

FSA issued revised provisions regarding the maximum number of prevented planted acres to be approved. FSA will no longer base the eligibility on the history of planting and/or prevented planting of the specific crop.

Deadline to file for prevented planting requests must be submitted within 15 days of the ending planting dates for those specific crops.

FAILED ACREAGE

With the lack of rainfall and frost/freeze across all counties, failed crops have been reported. You are reminded that failed crop provisions require reports within 15 days from the date of the disaster occurrence. The Farm Service Agency has reported those weather events to the State and National Offices.

CRP-Continuous

Producers may be eligible to enroll cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program or CRP. Current CRP ongoing signup is the Continuous CRP. There are specific planting requirements depending on the eligible signup.

CRP pays agricultural producers to use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. CRP addresses erosion problems, provides improved wildlife habitat, and promotes better water, soil, and air quality.

Participants in CRP receive a rental payment each year. Rental rates are competitive with current cropland lease rates. With these types of sign-ups, participants can receive up to 100% reimbursement for money spent on establishing specific ground cover and planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. CRP contracts are binding for 10 to 15 years.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months. In addition, land must have been cropped for the majority of the years from 2002 to 2007. There are special provisions for land that has been planted to hay.

For more information, call the office at 906 428 1060 or online at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=mi&area=home&subject=prog&topic=landing>

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 Office in person or by phone.





Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is available to interested producer's who need additional on farm storage or would like to modify existing structures. Basic details of the program are:

- Provide quotes of new structures and/or a cost break down of new equipment.
- Pay a \$100.00 application fee.
- Purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops in the county where the facility is constructed.
- Purchase all peril insurance on the structure listing FSA as the loss payee.
- Complete a title search on the parcel underlying the facility.

Contact FSA for additional details.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's incomes derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COC meetings are held quarterly. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7th, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Visit FSA on the web!
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT... CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINES AND CHANGES.....

You are reminded that you must report your 2012 crops to Farm Service Agency by the following dates:

- WHEAT - June 30, 2012
- CORN - July 15, 2012
- SOYBEANS - July 15, 2012
- BARLEY - July 15, 2012
- OATS - July 15, 2012
- FORAGE - July 15, 2012
- STRAWBERRIES - November 20th
- HONEY - January 2nd
- GINSENG - September 30th
- MAPLE SAP - February 1st

Please contact FSA to schedule an appointment. Crops must be planted to accurately report.

CHANGES TO CROP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS....

Beginning in crop year 2013, the following crop reporting deadlines have been established to coincide with Risk Managements deadlines:

- Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches - January 15th
- Spring Barley, Cabbage (early variety), Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding,
- Green Peas, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Onions, Popcorn, Potatoes,
- Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes - July 15th
- Cabbage (mid-summer variety), Processing Beans - August 15th
- Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains - November 15th