

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau County FSA Updates

Grand Traverse Area FSA Office

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County Executive Director:

Gregory B. Shy

Farm Loan Manager:

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Farm Loan Officer:

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Program Technicians:

Jan Malik
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County Committee:

Brent Wagner, *Chairman*
Bruce Cotton, *Member*
David Noonan, *Vice Chair*
Jaunita Send, *Advisor*
Joanne Gallagher, *Member*
Stanley Silverman, *Member*

Next County Committee Meeting:

August 1st, 9:00 am

2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 AND 2013 AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The AGI verification and compliance reviews for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are conducted on producers who the IRS indicates may have exceeded the adjusted gross income limitations described in [7 CFR 1400.500]. Based on this review, producers will receive determinations of eligibility or ineligibility.

If the producer is determined to have exceeded the AGI limitation of \$500,000 of nonfarm income, \$750,000 of farm income, \$1 million of conservation program benefits or the \$1 million total AGI, then receivables will be established for payments earned directly or indirectly by the producer subject to the applicable limitation. Producers who receive initial debt notification letters may only appeal the amount of the debt to their local FSA office.

Adverse determinations become administratively final if not timely appealed and can only be reopened if exceptional circumstances exist that prevented the producer from timely filing the appeal.

GOVDELIVERY CUSTOMERS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THE HEARTBLEED BUG

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com>.

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.

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY ANNOUNCES TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) SIGN-UP

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists, vineyards and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists, vineyards, and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

MAY INTEREST RATES

90 Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loan - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Joint Financing	2.500%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct FO Down Pymt	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 Yr.	2.250%*
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 10 Yr.	2.750%*
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 12 Yr.	2.875%*
Commodity Loans	1.125%*

*May's rate

IMPORTANT DATES - CROP REPORTING DEADLINES

July 15th - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and hops

August 15th - Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20), processing beans

September 30th - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, nursery (ornamental and non-ornamental) and turfgrass sod

November 15th - Perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye, and all other fall-seeded small grains

January 2nd - Honey (number of colonies)

January 15th - Apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops

February 1st - Maple sap (number of eligible trees and taps)

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).