

June 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Ionia County FSA Updates

Ionia County FSA Office **Acreage Reporting Deadlines**

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Jenifer A. Taylor

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County Committee Members
Jeff Sandborn
Amanda Powell
Dave Hardy
Allison Badder - Advisor

Farm Loan Manager
Paul E. Wagner

Farm Loan Officer
Sara Possehn

Next County Committee Meeting: June 26, 2014,
at 10:00 AM

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must report their crops, pasture, and agricultural ground timely. The following deadlines apply:

- **July 15th** – Spring seeded grains and spring planted row crops
- **August 15th** – Cabbage (planted 6/1 to 7/20)
- **September 30th** – Aquaculture, Christmas trees, floriculture, mushrooms, and turfgrass sod
- **November 15th** – Perennial forage (alfalfa, 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)
- **May 31st** – Nursery

Other important dates and deadlines:

- **July 4th** - FSA office closed for Independence Day holiday
- **July 15th** - Deadline for 2013 ACRE production reports
- **July 15th** - Deadline to report 2013 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) production evidence
- **August 1st** - Final date for County Offices to receive FSA-669A's: County Committee nomination forms
- **August 1st** - 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) sign-up deadline
- **August 1st** - Deadline to request a farm reconstitution for 2014
- **August 15th** - Deadline to report prevented planting corn and soybeans
- **November 1st** - 2014 ELAP sign-up deadline

2013 ACRE Requirement

Participation in 2013 ACRE requires production reports must be submitted by **July 15, 2014**. Failure to report production for those covered commodities planted on ACRE farms may result in contract termination. If the contract is terminated, all payments, including direct payments previously received plus interest will be required to be refunded.

CRP Continues Through 2018

Beginning June 9, 2014, farmers can sign-up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through FSA. This CRP program was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and provides incentives to producers who devote environmentally-sensitive cropland acres to conservation practices. Offered land must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity for four of the previous six crop years from 2008 to 2013. If you have any questions or to request an appointment to enroll your land into CRP, please contact the Ionia County FSA Office for further details.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Direct Loan Changes

Changes were made to the interest rate charged on loans where FSA provides 50 percent or less on jointly financed purchases of real estate also called Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loans. The interest rate will be the greater of 2.5 percent or the current interest rate for direct Farm Ownership loans minus 2 percent, as a fixed rate for the duration of the loan. At present, the June direct Farm Ownership rate is 4.00 percent. Because the 2.5 percent floor is greater than subtracting 2 percent from the current direct farm ownership loan rate, the rate for Direct Farm Ownership Participation Loans in June is 2.50 percent.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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 FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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).