

June, 2014



NEWSLETTER



- [CURRENT FARM PROGRAMS](#)
- [HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND COMPLIANCE](#)
- [FARM RECONSTITUTIONS](#)
- [LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED](#)
- [USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND WILD RICE PLANTING RULES](#)
- [IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER](#)

St. Joseph/Kalamazoo County FSA Updates

St. Joseph/ Kalamazoo County

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CURRENT FARM PROGRAMS

The following programs are currently available under the new farm bill:

- [NAP](#) (Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) for select fruits, vegetables, and forage
- [MILC](#) (Milk Income Loss Contract)
- [LFP](#) (Livestock Forage Program)
- [LIP](#) (Livestock Indemnity Program)
- [ELAP](#) (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program) for livestock and honeybees
- [TAP](#) (Tree Assistance Program)
- [MAL](#) (Marketing Assistance Loans) for crop year 2014
- [FSFL](#) (Farm Storage Facility Loan Program) for annual row crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits and vegetables
- [Farm Loans](#)

If you need any additional information on these programs, please follow the hyperlinks (above) or contact our office.

The next step for most producers will be:

- **REPORTING farm changes NOW.**

It is very important for producers to contact our office **NOW** to report any new land picked up, land they no longer farm, new ownership, operation business changes, alterations to field boundaries, or new land they wish to clear or farm. These changes must be processed **BEFORE** acreage reporting to avoid errors and/or delays.

Once all farm changes have been processed, be sure to call our office to set up an appointment to **report/certify your crops before July 15, 2014**. Keep track of your planting dates!

Tentative date for Next County
Committee Meeting: July 16,
2014

Be sure to look out for future news regarding these [Farm Bill programs](#):

- ARC/PLC (Agricultural Revenue Coverage/Price Loss Coverage) programs
- CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following different methods are used when doing a farm recon.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agricultural production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant belongs to a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group, without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all of the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND WILD RICE PLANTING RULES

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced fruit, vegetable and wild rice provisions that affect producers who intend to participate in certain programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Fruits, vegetables and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction **IF** the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

June 20th - Prevented planting deadline for corn

June 30th - Prevented planting deadline for soybeans

July 4th - FSA office closed for Independence Day holiday

July 15th - Acreage reporting deadline for spring-seeded 2014 crops

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

November 1st - 2014 ELAP sign-up deadline

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).