



## ***Delta, Schoolcraft, Alger, Marquette County News***

### **USDA Service Center**

#### **Delta, Alger, Marquette and Schoolcraft County FSA**

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  
John C. Bergdahl, Vice-Chair  
Allen Porath, 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

*We wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!*



### **Conservation Compliance** **Reminder**

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems may interfere with compliance in a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new cropland, breaking out additional cropland, shortening an established cropping rotation, planting new crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office **BEFORE** doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact your local County office **BEFORE** modifying (tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling) any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and program eligibility.



### **COC ELECTION**

County Committee (COC) elections provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by running for a seat on FSA COC. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider running for these seats.

This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 is up for election. LAA 1 consists of Marquette County

Ballots are to be mailed around November 4, 2011 and must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 5, 2011.

The County Committee will then count the ballots at their December 6, 2011 meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is open to the public.

### **NAP Coverage**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

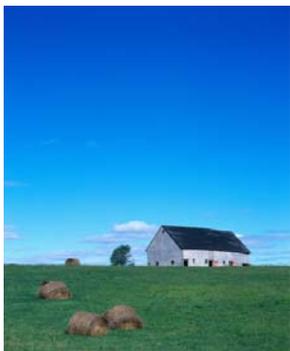
For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.



## Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.



## Reporting Changes

It is important to remember to contact the office with any records changes that may have occurred. These changes would include, but are not limited to:

- Address – any contact information as well as temporary address changes should be updated for notification purposes.
- Direct Deposit – to ensure payments are deposited correctly, it is imperative that any changes in bank account information be updated immediately.
- Development – any new parcels of land removed for houses need to be reported.
- Owner/Operator Changes – report any changes in land ownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- Reconstitutions – changes that require farm combinations or separations due to sale of land or change in operators should be reported as soon as possible.
- Farm Operating Plan – any changes to the farming operation that may have an effect on “actively engaged” determinations.

## 2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

The beginning enrollment date for 2012 DCP and ACRE will be **January 23, 2012**. There will not be an advance payment for the 2012 program.

2012 ACRE elections (CCC-509 ACRE) may be made any time before June 1, 2012.

## Acresage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acresage reports. Acresage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acresage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acresage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acresage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acresages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acresage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

## Commodity Loans Available

2011 Crop Commodity Loans are available on wheat, oats, barley and honey until March 31, 2012, and corn and soybeans until May 31, 2012.

To be eligible for a loan a producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, have a 2011 FSA-578, Report of Acresage on file, and comply with Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Loans mature on the last day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month following the month in which the loan is approved.

The two types of commodity loans are farm-stored and warehouse stored. Farm-stored loan quantities can be certified or a measurement service can be performed at your cost. Warehouse stored loans require a warehouse certificate with storage paid.

The current interest rate through November is 1.125%. To access loan rates on the WEB visit:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?are\\_a=home&subject=prsu&topic=lor](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?are_a=home&subject=prsu&topic=lor)

## **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

### **2012 NAP Sales Closing Dates**

The final deadline for 2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are as follows:

**November 20, 2011** for coverage on all perennial crops such as asparagus, strawberries and ALL FRUIT.

**December 1, 2011** for honey and maple sap.

**February 2, 2012** for onions.

**March 15, 2012** for all annually planted crops not covered by federal crop insurance, such as vegetables.

***Any changes to crop acreage, such as removal of orchards or new plantings should also be reported at this time.***

### **Background:**

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to the prior Ad Hoc Crop Disaster Programs. Unlike the prior USDA Disaster Programs, SURE is legislated through 2011. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer and all hay crops.

### **Eligible Farms:**

SURE payments are available to producers on farms that are located in a county covered in a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or in a contiguous county OR the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

### **Eligible Producers:**

To be eligible for the SURE Program, all of the farming operation's crops planted or intended) that are of economic significance must be covered by either Federal Crop Insurance (CI) or FSA's Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. Coverage must also be obtained for other crops for which CI or NAP is available, such as nursery, honey, and floriculture. However, coverage for grazed crops is not required for SURE. Eligible farmers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farm do not have to meet the CI requirement.

### **Payment Calculations:**

Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue.



### **Disaster Program Guarantee:**

The guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected. Higher levels of coverage will result in higher crop guarantees. For NAP crops, the guarantee is based on a formula that includes the yield, acreage, and price factors. The farms Disaster Program guarantee cannot exceed 90% of the expected revenue for the farm.

### **Total Farm Revenue:**

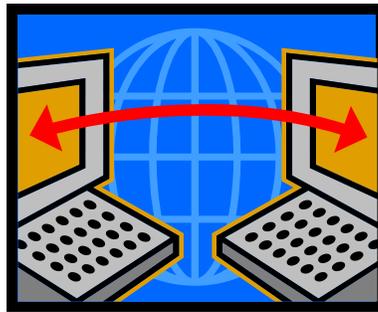
Included in the Total Farm Revenue calculation are estimated crop value, CI indemnities, NAP payments, Market Assistance Loan proceeds, other disaster payments, DCP payments (15% of direct payments, plus all CC payments and ACRE payments).

### **Sure Calculator:**

To assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE Calculator. Note that to qualify for SURE; producers need to obtain CI or NAP on all crops in all counties in all states. To utilize the Calculator, visit the FSA website [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) Under "I want to . . ." in the upper right corn, click on "View Farm Bill Information".



We would like to encourage all producers to sign up your email address online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi> Follow the "Newsletters" link on the left column of the main page and enter your email in the "Sign up for updates" box under "Stay Connected" section.



## **FSA Farm Loans**

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## **EMPLOYEE CHANGE**

*In August 2011, Delta CED Donna Silta retired from the USDA Farm Service Agency with 28 years of service. Donna will always be missed for her leadership and great personality. If you see her riding her horse with her Grandchildren stop and thank her for her service! We miss her here at the office and wish her all the best in her retirement years. Mitch Towne is her replacement, please wish him good luck in filling her shoes ☺!*



### **Dates to Remember**

Nov. 11	Closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 14	SURE signup begins
Nov. 24	Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 26	Closed for Christmas Day
Jan. 02	Closed for New Year Day
Jan. 16	Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 23	DCP/ACRE sign up begins
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/mi](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi)

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