

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Allegan County FSA Updates

Allegan County FSA Office

1668 Lincoln Road
Allegan, MI 49010

Phone: 269-673-6940
Fax: 855-643-5268 *New FAX*

County Executive Director:
David J Mroczek

Farm Loan Manager:
Paul Wagner

Program Technicians:
Penny Andrews
Jessica Forbes

Next County Committee Meeting:
June 11 @ 9:30 a.m.

Soybean Request for Referendum

The USDA Farm Service Agency is accepting Soybean Request For Referendum documents through May 30th 2014. The United Soybean Board administers a coordinated promotion and research program designed to expand uses of soybeans and soy products. Eligible voters must have produced soybeans and paid an assessment in 2012 or 2013. Producers who desire a referendum shall participate. Form LS-51-1 can be obtained online or from your FSA office and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. Contact our office for additional information.

Save Time – Make an Appointment

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Allegan County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Allegan County:

- July 15, 2014:** Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops.
- November 15, 2014:** Perennial forage (alfalfa hay, mixed hay, pasture), seeded wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.

January 15, 2015: Apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries and all other perennial orchard crops.

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed. If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office. If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact our office.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

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

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

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members 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 the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Welcome to our new employee - Jessica Forbes

We want to welcome our new employee to the FSA Family - Jessica Forbes. Jessica grew up on the family dairy farm in Middleville. A graduate of Western Michigan University, Jessica brings a wealth of farming and agricultural experience to her position. She and her husband Josh live near Hopkins. She started with FSA in April. Please help us welcome Jessica to our office.

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).