

May 2013



Alpena, Alcona, and Montmorency County FSA Updates

Farm Record Changes

Please provide any Farm Record changes affecting your operation to the local FSA County Office as soon as possible. Examples of changes are, but not limited to:

- changing your operation entity type (i.e. going from an individual to an LLC, Corporation, or Partnership, etc.)
- adding/dropping cropland or farms (i.e. purchasing or renting new ground; no longer leasing ground, etc.)
- ownership changes (i.e. new owners on rented land, newly purchased land, etc.)



DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end **June 3, 2013**.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise, producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA County Office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Outreach to Women and New Producers

Have you recently become involved in farming, or been involved in farming for years with your spouse but want to learn more about Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs? Please contact our office and we will be happy to help you understand what FSA has to offer and how it fits your farming operation. Also contact us if you are an owner of land but do not receive a ballot for our County Committee elections. We may not have you listed as a landowner.



2013 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to certify planted acres by the final dates (listed below) to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Commodity Loans
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insurable Crop Disaster Program (NAP)



2013 Reporting Dates for spring planted crops:

July 15, 2013-CRP, Forage seeding, and all other spring-seeded crops.

- **Please call for an appointment** so we can pull your records prior to your visit. If we are prepared for your visit it will take less time for you in the office...thank you!!

2013 Crops past the Reporting Dates:

November 15, 2012-Perennial Forage, and other Fall seeded Grains (including wheat and rye)

- Due to a change in certification dates, there is a one-time waiver of the late file fee for 2013 fall-seeded crops not timely certified by the November 15, 2012 deadline. If you planted alfalfa, wheat or rye last fall but have not reported it, you may still report it without penalty. However, the deadline to report alfalfa, wheat, and rye planted this fall will be November 15, 2013. A late file penalty will be assessed if you miss this deadline.

Due to budgetary concerns, reminder postcards to certify your acreage will NOT be sent. Please remind your friends and neighbors.

2013 Prevented Planting and Failed Acreage



Crops that were prevented from being planted or failed due to a natural disaster condition should be reported on your crop certification. Producers must timely file a CCC- 576, Notice of Loss, and mark on maps the area where the prevented or failed crop is located. Timely reporting crop loss could be beneficial with crediting cropping history, future disaster programs, or RMA claims.

Prevented Planting - Must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Contact the office if you are unsure of a crop's final planting date.

Failed Acreage - Must be filed before disposition of the crop. We need to be given enough notice to be able to verify the loss before the crop is destroyed.

2013 FSA County Committee (COC) Elections/Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees (COC) is an important role locally and a direct link between the agricultural community and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the local producers and represent all constituents. FSA County Committees operate within official regulations and apply their judgment and knowledge to make the local decisions on programs such as:

- Commodity price support programs
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

Nominations, for the 2013 Alpena-Alcona-Montmorency FSA COC election, will be accepted from producers for the following Local Administrative Areas (LAA):

- **LAA #1:** Consists of Montmorency, Hillman, Vienna, Briley, Avery, Albert, Loud, and Rust Townships
- **LAA #3:** Consists of Wilson, Ossineke, and Sanborn Townships

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers or [online](#). For more information contact your local FSA County Office.

Who Can Hold Office??

To hold office as a COC member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria such as:

- Be a producer with an interest in a farming or ranching operation
- Participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be of legal voting age
- Reside in the LAA and County in which the election is being held

Along with the above eligibility requirements, a person must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of COC member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 31st** - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grain, oilseed loan or LDP
- **June 3rd** - 2013 ACRE Sign-up ends
- **June 7th** - 2011 SURE Sign-up ends
- **June 14th** - 45th General CRP Sign-up ends
- **June 17th** – Begin taking nomination forms for COC Election
- **July 4th** - Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- **July 15th** - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program
- **July 15th** - 2013 crop reporting deadline for most crops
- **August 1st** – Final date to accept nomination forms for COC Election
- **August 2nd** - 2013 DCP Sign-up ends



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County Committee:

John Herrick, Chairman

Michael Timm, Vice-Chairman

Janice Emerick, Member

Kevin Small, Member

Daniel Smolinski, Member

Louella Byelich, Advisor