

December 2012



Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

Antrim/Otsego County

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NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Roger Bolhuis for being elected to his 3rd consecutive term as a County Committee member representing farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 covering Banks, Central Lake, Echo and Torch Lake Townships in Antrim County. Election results for LAA #1 are;

Roger Bolhuis -- Elected to the county committee (COC)

Thomas Kiessel -- 1st alternate to the COC

Congratulations to Anthony Prusakiewicz for being elected to his 2nd consecutive term as a county committee member representing farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #5 covering Charlton, Chester, Corwith and Dover Townships in Otsego County. Election results for LAA #5 are:

Anthony Prusakiewicz -- Elected to the county committee (COC),

John Milbocker -- 1st alternate to the COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in December and determined Roger Bolhuis will serve as the county committee chairman and John Makarewicz, vice-chairman.

New January & February Crop Reporting Deadlines

For 2013 there are new reporting deadlines for specific perennial crops, and they are indicated below:

January 2 -- Honey (Certifying number of Colonies)**

January 15 -- Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries.

February 1 -- Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and Taps)**

Please call your local FSA office for more information on the new crop reporting deadlines.

Highly Erodible & Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the FSA and the NRCS, are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system plan
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide Highly erodible land or Wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information contact your local FSA or NRCS office or info can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

NOTE: If you receive notification of a completed determination from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), make sure you read and understand the findings. This determination could affect your eligibility for USDA benefits. You will have 30 days from the date of the letter to respond back to NRCS if you do not agree with the results.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Important Dates and Deadlines

December 25 - Office closed in observance of Christmas Day.

January 1 - Office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

January 2 - Deadline to certify honey and report subsequent years' production for NAP.

January 15 - Final date to report Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries. Report subsequent years' production for NAP on these crops.

January 31 - Final date to request 2012 wool loan or LDP.

March 1 - The deadline for filing an Emergency (EM) loan application for Disaster Designation S3259

March 15 - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on most spring seeded NAP crops.

March 31 - Final date to request a 2012-crop small grains and honey loans or LDP.

April 29 - The deadline for filing an Emergency (EM) loan application for Disaster Designation S3370

May 31 - Final date to request 2012-crop feed grains, oilseeds loans or LDP.

***Note:** Contact your local FSA office for more information on EM loan designations.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).