

July 2013



Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

108 Depot Street
Bellaire, MI 49615

Phone: 231-533-8542

Fax: 231-533-6689

County Executive Director:

Kathy Y Kozlowski

Program Technicians:

Kathy B Johnson

Kari E Tipton

County Committee (COC):

Roger Bolhuis, Chairman

John Makarewicz, Vice Chair

Anthony Prusakiewicz,
Member

Daniel Slivinski, Member

Kevin Bargy, Member

Deborah Milbocker, Advisor

Farm Loan Manager:

James Monroe

231-941-0951

Next Scheduled

COC Meeting:

September 6, 2013 at

9:30 a.m.*

(*subject to change)

USDA Extends Acreage Reporting Deadline for FSA to Aug. 2, 2013

Risk Management Deadline Remains Unchanged

Farmers and landowners have an additional 18 calendar days to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office with the deadline extended from Monday, July 15, 2013, to Friday, Aug. 2, 2013. Only the FSA reporting deadline has been extended. The acreage reporting requirement for crop insurance has not changed and remains July 15.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP); the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE); the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistant Program (NAP).

Acreage reports for FSA are considered timely this year when filed at the county office by the new applicable final crop reporting deadline of Aug. 2, 2013. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

While FSA is able to extend its deadline, RMA's acreage reporting date remains July 15, 2013, for most spring planted crops in the country. Farmers are reminded to contact their insurance agent if they have any questions about coverage, prevented planting, or for reporting and processing a claim.

Producers should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to complete acreage reporting for FSA. For questions on this or any FSA program, producers should contact their local FSA office or seek information online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

DCP Sign-up Deadline is Aug. 2, 2013

Producers are encouraged to sign up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical program (DCP) before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 had the option to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 had the opportunity to re-enroll in ACRE for 2013 before the June 3, 2013 deadline or they can still enroll in DCP through August 2, 2013.

Eligible DCP participants receive a direct payment and/or a counter-cyclical payment. Direct payment rates are established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

Producers who wish to enroll in DCP are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their local FSA Office as soon as possible.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods 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.

2013 County Committee (COC) Elections / Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees (COC) is an important process 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 in making local decisions on programs such as:

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

Nominations for the 2013 Antrim/Otsego County FSA office COC election will be accepted from producers in the following Local Administrative Area (LAA):

- **LAA #2:** Antrim County - Consists of Chestonia, Jordan, Star, Mancelona & Warner Townships

All eligible voters are urged to consider seeking nominations for this important position. All agricultural producers and owners of agricultural land are eligible to vote. A farmer's spouse who is listed on the deed is also eligible to vote. Minority and female farmers are encouraged to take part in this important nomination process.

The COC nomination period is open from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form,

FSA-669A, 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.

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).