

May 2014



# NEWSLETTER



- [GovDelivery Customers Are Not Impacted By The Heartbleed Bug](#)
- [Guaranteed Loan Program and Eligibility](#)
- [2014 Acreage Reporting Dates](#)
- [Failed Acreage Provisions](#)
- [Prevented Planting Acreage](#)
- [USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\) Sign-Up](#)
- [Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Underway](#)
- [Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program \(SURE\) Sign-Up Begins For 2012 Crop Losses](#)

---

## Antrim/Otsego County FSA Updates

---

### Antrim/Otsego County FSA Office

108 Depot Street  
Bellaire, MI 49615  
**Phone:** (231) 533-8542  
**Fax:** (855) 643-5274

**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 Jr., -  
Member  
Daniel Slivinski, - Member  
Kevin Bargy, - Member  
Deborah Milbocker, - Advisor

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
James Monroe  
231-941-0951

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Caleb Boge

**Next County Committee  
Meeting:** August 8, 2014\*  
9:30 am (\*subject to change)

### GovDelivery Customers Are Not Impacted By the Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at  
<http://heartbleed.com>.

---

### Guaranteed Loan Program and Eligibility

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,355,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

Continued...

### Eligibility

Changes to FSA regulations have removed Guaranteed Operating Loan term limits. Previous and current guaranteed loan borrowers who were not eligible for further guaranteed loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit may now be eligible for further guaranteed loans through their commercial lender.

---

## 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Antrim/Otsego County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Antrim/Otsego County:

<b>July 15, 2014:</b>	Beans (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Kidney, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, Small White/Navy, Tebo, Yellow Eye), Hops, and Cabbage (Planted Before 5/31), Forage Seeding, all other Spring seeded crops.
<b>August 15, 2014:</b>	Cabbage (Planted 6/1 - 7/20)
<b>September 30, 2014</b>	Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod
<b>November 15, 2014:</b>	Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture) Fall-Seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
<b>January 2, 2015:</b>	Honey (Certifying number of Colonies)
<b>January 15, 2015:</b>	Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries
<b>February 1, 2015:</b>	Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and Taps).

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- 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 the Antrim/Otsego County FSA office at (231) 533-8542 ext. 2.

---

## Failed Acreage Provisions

As warmer weather conditions continue some areas/fields may be considered “failed” due to the extreme weather we have seen throughout the winter months.

Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest.

Producers who are requesting failed acreage credit shall prove to the County Committee’s satisfaction that:

- The crop was planted with the intent to harvest using farming practices consistent for the crop and area
- The acreage failed because of disaster-related conditions

To be approved as failed acreage, the acreage must have been reported as failed acreage before the disposition of the crop; and the acreage must have been planted under normal conditions but failed as the result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

Verification of failed acreage must be made by 1 of the following methods:

- Crop insurance data if the data supports the FSA-578, report of acreage
- County Committee (COC) knowledge.
- Field Visit

NOTE: If the COC has knowledge that an area is affected by a natural disaster, COC can approve the acreage without performing a field visit.

**Failed acreage determinations must be filed on form CCC-576 and cannot be withdrawn or revised.**

---

## Prevented Planting Acreage

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster.

Ineligible Acreage for Prevented Planting includes but is not limited to, acreage:

- Not planted because of a management decision
- Affected by chemical and herbicide residue
- Where the producer was unable to find a market for the crop
- Affected by wildlife damage

To be considered timely filed, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage on form FSA-578 and complete form CCC-576, Part B within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**After form CCC-576 is submitted, it cannot be withdrawn or revised.**

---

## **USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-Up**

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

---

## **Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Underway**

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

### **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

- LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

### **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):**

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

---

## **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) Sign-Up Begins For 2012 Crop Losses**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that Sign-up began for 2012 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. The program, established by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides for one final period of eligibility for producers suffering crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011, for crops intended for 2012 harvest.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance resulting from a disaster occurring on or before Sept. 30, 2011. A crop of economic significance contributes at least five percent of the expected revenue for a producer's farm. Additionally, the crop must also meet the following eligibility criteria:
- The crop must be considered a 2012 crop which means, in general, that the crop was intended for harvest in 2012;
- For insured crops, the coverage period must have begun on or before Sept. 30, 2011;
- For crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program, the coverage period must have begun on or before Sept. 30, 2011;
- The final planting date, according to the specific coverage for the crop, must have been on or before Sept. 30, 2011.

Note: A producer who only plants fall seeded or spring seeded crops with a final planting date on Oct. 1, 2011 or later) cannot meet the above eligibility criteria and will not be eligible for the 2012 SURE program.

- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50

percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A “farm” for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage.

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the **Aug. 29, 2014**, deadline.

For more information on the 2012 SURE program, visit any USDA Service Center or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

---

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).