

November 2012



Calhoun County FSA Updates

Calhoun County FSA Office

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2013 Crop Reporting Deadline for Wheat and Hay!

Wheat, forage crops (including established seedings of alfalfa and hay), and other fall seeded small grains are to have been reported at the Calhoun County FSA office by **November 15, 2012**. However, for the 2013 crop year only, reports can still be filed after the November 15 date without the assessment of the late filing fee. These new FSA crop-reporting dates are consistent with the reporting requirements for crop insurance.

County Committee Elections

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area #1. This includes the townships of Bedford, Convis, Emmett, Lee, Marshall, Pennfield, and the City of Battle Creek. If for some reason you do not receive a ballot, feel free to notify the Calhoun County FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on **December 3, 2012**. Ballots will be counted on December 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in the Marshall USDA Service Center, 13464 Preston Dr., Marshall, MI.

Calhoun County Committee Advisor

We are currently accepting nominations for County Committee Advisors for Calhoun County.

The duties of the COC advisor include:

- Attending a monthly meeting;
- Participating in all deliberations;
- Increasing awareness of and participation in Farm Service Agency activities;
- Helping to develop interest and incentives in underrepresented group members for considering FSA work as a career;
- Actively soliciting candidates from underrepresented groups for nomination during the election process.

Candidates for COC Advisor shall reside in the COC jurisdiction, be actively participating in farming in the COC jurisdiction, be willing and able to serve as an advisor, and indicate in writing their willingness and ability to serve.

Please submit your nomination to the Calhoun County FSA Office by November 30, 2012.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to follow certain rules on any land they own or operate that is considered either highly erodible or 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;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fencerows, 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 on highly erodible land wetland conservation compliance contact the Calhoun FSA or the NRCS office at the Marshall USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Marketing Assistance Loans (9-Month Commodity Loans)

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically lower at harvest time. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth (9) calendar month following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 1.125 percent.

CROP	LOAN RATE	AVAILABLE THROUGH:
Corn	\$1.86/bu	May 31, 2013
Soybeans	\$4.93/bu	May 31, 2013
Soft White Wheat	\$2.77/bu	April 1, 2013
Soft Red Wheat	\$2.75/bu	April 1, 2013
Oats	\$1.38/bu	April 1, 2013

NOTE: Loan rates will be reduced 30% for commodities grown on farms enrolled in ACRE.

Farm Service Agency Deadlines

December 1st – Final date to purchase NAP coverage for honey, maple sap.

December 3 - Final date for County Committee Election ballots to be postmarked or returned.

December 25 - Office closed in observance of Christmas Day.

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

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).