

December 2013



## Calhoun County FSA Updates

### Topics for December

- NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED
- Calhoun County Committee Advisor
- 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates
- Marketing Assistance Loans
- Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit
- Rural Youth Loans

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### Calhoun County FSA Office

13464 Preston Drive, Ste.100  
Marshall, Michigan 49068

**Phone:** 269-781-4263

**Fax:** 855-662-9272

### County Executive Director:

Elizabeth Lake

### Farm Loan Manager:

Mack Francoeur, Jr.

### Program Technicians:

Bonnie Baxter

Kim Odette

Dana Sherman, FLP

### County Committee:

Beth Korn, Chairperson

Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair

Sharon Williams, Member

Denice Raymond, Advisor

### Next County Committee

**Meeting:** January 23, 2014,  
9:30 AM

### NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

**New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013.** These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

**The corrected ballot must be returned to the Calhoun County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014.**

All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

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## Calhoun County Committee Advisor

**We are currently accepting nominations for County Committee Advisors for Calhoun County.** Advisors serve as a voice for socially disadvantaged farmers to ensure fair representation. Socially disadvantaged members include women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives. Persons interested in serving as an Advisor to the County Committee should be a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

The duties of the COC advisor include:

- Attending a quarterly 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 Calhoun County, 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 January 15, 2014.**

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## 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Michigan:

November 15	Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
January 15	Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches
July 15	Cabbage Planted 3/31-5/31, Beans (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, White/Navy, Tebo, Yellow Eye), Forage Seeding, all other crops
August 15	Beans (all other), Cabbage (Planted 6/1-7/20)

**Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee.** Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

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

Late file fees will be assessed for crops reported after the dates listed.

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## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

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## **INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT**

The Farm Service Agency maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,355,000 effective Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$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 Office with questions about farm loans.

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## **RURAL YOUTH LOANS**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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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), and (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).