

July 2014



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Calhoun County FSA Updates

Calhoun County FSA Office

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Phone: 269-781-4263
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[FSA Website](#)

County Executive Director:
Elizabeth Lake

Farm Loan Manager:
Mack A. Francoeur, Jr.

Program Technicians:
Bonnie Baxter
Kim Odette
Dana Sherman, FLP

County Committee:
Beth Korn, Chairperson
Keith Lawrence, Vice-Chair
Sharon Williams, Member
Connie Kiessling, COC Advisor

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** August 19 (tentative)
8:30 a.m.

COC Election Nomination Period

The Calhoun County Committee (COC) Election process has begun! As of June 16, the Calhoun FSA Office started accepting nominations for individuals who wish to serve on the Calhoun COC for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. LAA #3 covers the townships of **Albion, Clarence, Clarendon, Eckford, Homer, Marengo, and Sheridan**. If you are a farmer or landowner from one of these townships, we encourage you to get involved with FSA's County Committee system. Nomination forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received in the Calhoun County FSA Office by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2014**. Elections will take place this fall. Please contact our office for more information or to obtain an FSA-669A Nomination form.

Report Your 2014 Crops – It's Not Too Late!

In order to comply with FSA program requirements, all producers are encouraged to file an accurate crop certification report. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Calhoun County FSA office at (269)781-4263, ext. 2. It's not too late!

2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must Be Filed By August 1, 2014 for Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the 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 the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (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 ELAP Fact Sheet on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural 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
- 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 youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

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

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) initiative is a USDA-wide effort focused on strengthening local and regional food systems.

In recent years, consumers have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally-produced foods and many farmers and ranchers followed the trend and offer fresh foods through local markets.

USDA followed suit, developing KYF2, which helps connect consumers with producers in their community. USDA offers a wide range of programs that can assist farmers, ranchers, businesses, communities and individuals. To learn more about grants, loans and support that is available, visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANTS.

These USDA programs stimulate economic development in agricultural communities, foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers, promote locally and regionally grown and processed foods, cultivate healthy eating habits and educated consumers, expand access to affordable fresh and local food and develop a connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

For more information on KYF2, visit

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

Important Dates to Remember

August 1st - Final date for County Offices to receive FSA-669A's, County Committee nomination forms

August 1st - 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) sign-up deadline

August 1st - Deadline to request a farm reconstitution for 2014

November 1st - 2014 ELAP sign-up deadline

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).