

May 2014



NEWSLETTER



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Gladwin/Clare Counties FSA Updates

Gladwin/Clare County FSA Office

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**Next County Committee
Meeting: TBA**

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.

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

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (Honey Bees)

Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Eligible honeybees do not include wild, feral honeybees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honeybees.

ELAP provides assistance for the loss of honeybee colonies in excess of normal mortality. It covers damage to honeybee hives and honeybee feed that was purchased or produced for eligible honeybees, including additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain honeybees until such time that additional feed becomes available.

To be eligible for ELAP payments, honeybee colony, hive and feed losses must be:

- Due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition
- Incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred

Producers can apply to receive ELAP benefits at local FSA service centers beginning April 15, 2014, for eligible honeybee losses suffered during 2012,

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2013 and 2014 program years (losses occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2014) due to eligible adverse weather or loss conditions. For 2012 and 2013 program year losses, sign-up ends Aug. 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, sign-up ends Nov. 1, 2014. For 2015 and subsequent program year losses, sign-up will end no later than Nov. 1 after the end of the program year in which the honeybee loss occurred.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. Owners of the following types of livestock in the table below may be eligible for LIP:

To be eligible for LIP, an owner's livestock must:

- Have died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event occurring;
 - On or after Oct. 1, 2011, and;
 - No later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event, and;
 - In the calendar year for which benefits are requested.
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day they died and;
- Not have been produced for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded livestock includes wild free roaming animals, pets or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, roping or for show.

Farm Record Changes

Farm records can be updated during business hours at FSA Service Centers that administer the county where the farm or ranch is located. Producers can contact their local FSA Service Center in advance to find out what paperwork they may need. In addition, bank account information should be supplied or updated if necessary to ensure that producers receive payments as quickly as possible through direct deposit.

Examples of updates or changes to report include:

New producers or producers who have not reported farm records to FSA.

- Producers, who have recently bought, sold or rented land. Those producers need to ensure that changes have been reported and properly recorded by local FSA county office personnel. Reports of purchased or sold property should include a copy of the land deed, and if land has been leased, then documentation should be provided that indicates the producer had/has control of the acreage.
- Producers that have changed business structures (e.g. formed a partnership or LLC) need to ensure that these relationships and shares are properly recorded with FSA. Even family farms that have records on file may want to ensure that this is recorded accurately as it may impact payment limits.

HELC And WC

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION (HELC) AND WETLAND CONSERVATION (WC) CERTIFICATION

The following conditions of eligibility are required for persons to receive any USDA loans or other program benefits that are subject to highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, unless an exemption has been granted by USDA.

By signing Form AD-1026, Item 12, the producer certifies receipt of this form, and unless an exemption has been granted by USDA, agrees to the following on any farms in which such person has an interest:

- A) NOT to plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible fields unless actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system.
- B) NOT to plant or produce an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985.
- C) NOT to convert wetlands by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing woody vegetation or any other means that would allow the planting of any crop, pasture, agricultural commodity, or other such crops.
- D) NOT to use proceeds from any FSA farm loan, insured or guaranteed, or any USDA cost-share program, in such a way that might result in negative impacts to wetlands, except for those projects evaluated and approved by NRCS or Army Corps of Engineers.

NOTE: Signature on Form AD-1026 gives representatives of USDA authorization to enter upon and inspect all farms in which the producer has an interest for the purpose of confirming the above statements. Any questions concerning the requirements of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, shall be directed to your County FSA Office personnel before signing AD-1026 in Item 12.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

<u>Crop/Commodity</u>	<u>Reporting Date:</u>
Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains	November 15
CRP	July 15
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), Cabbage (Planted 3/31-5/31), Cucumbers (Planted 5/10-6/15), Forage Seeding, all other crops	July 15
Beans (all other types), Cabbage (Planted 6/1-7/20), Cucumbers (Planted 5/15-7/20 in Arenac, Bay, and Gladwin.	August 15

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).