

September 2013



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Hillsdale County FSA Updates

Hillsdale County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Linda Kline

Program Technicians:
Nina Draper
Brad Everline
Cindy Gabbard
Angela Lanius

County Committee Members:
Sheryl Kies - Chair
David Godfrey - Vice Chair
Tom Schroeder - Member
Cami Marz-Evans - Advisor

Farm Loan Manager:
Russ LaFollette
Phone: 517-849-9890

Farm Loan Officer:
Crystal Hepker

Next County Committee Meeting: December 9, 2013 at 8:30 AM

Important Dates to Remember

September 30 - Final date to purchase NAP coverage on forage crops

October 14 - Office closed to observe Columbus Day Holiday

November 1 – MILC Program Deadline for Milk production for October 2008 through September 2013

November 11 - Office closed to observe Veterans Day

November 15 - Final date to report your **2014** perennial forage (alfalfa, hay, mixed hay, pasture), fall-seeded wheat, rye and all other fall seeded small grains

Have You Changed Banks?

Payments will be made in October for several programs including CRP and DCP. **Since payments are made by direct deposit it is extremely important to update your banking information with our office to ensure your payments arrive timely.**

If your bank changes names or you close your account, you need to notify our office. Payments will be delayed if we are not aware of changes to accounts and routing numbers.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. The AFIDA reports must be filed with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

Historical Aerial Photos Available

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has been collecting aerial photography of the United States for over half a century. These aerial photos were originally collected to support federal farm programs throughout the United States. This historic film is now stored at the USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

USDA aerial photos are high resolution images taken during the growing season and clearly show features such as roads, buildings, vegetation, trees and waterways. Most of these projects covered entire counties over large parts of the U.S. at least once a decade.

If you are seeking evidence of historic land use, you may inquire at your local FSA Service Center.

The APFO is able to print or digitally scan these photos for public use. Print photos and scans start as low as \$13.00 each. They can also certify the photos for use as evidence in court for a small fee.

Additional information about the APFO and available aerial imagery is available at:

www.apfo.usda.gov

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).