

June 2013



Kent County FSA Updates

Kent County FSA Office **DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues**

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DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013, and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Status

Be sure you have your milk production receipts turned in to the office. The MILC program for April has posted a payment of \$0.69884.

2013 FSA County Committee Elections

Attention producers in Tyrone, Solon, Sparta, Algoma, Alpine, Walker, Grand Rapids, and Ada Townships, your Local Administrative Area (LLA) will have an election period opening on June 17, 2013. The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operation. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Election Period

June 17, 2013 – The nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2013 – This is the last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 4, 2013 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 2, 2013 – Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2014 – Newly elected county committee members take office.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Timely Reporting of Prevented Planting to FSA

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. **Deadline to report prevented planting corn acres is June 20th. Deadline for soybeans is June 30th.** After a CCC-576 is submitted, it cannot be withdrawn or revised.

Prevented Planting shall be denied in each case where the CCC-576 Part B is submitted beyond the deadline and at a time that would not permit COC (County Office Committee) or an authorized representative the opportunity to make a farm visit to inspect the specific acreage or crop to verify eligible disaster conditions that prevented the acreage or crop from being planted. Late filed fees shall apply.

COC may request the producer show there was intent to plant the acreage by providing documentation of field preparation, seed purchases, and other information that show the acreage could have been planted and harvested under normal conditions.

If producers have crop insurance and are unable to plant the crop by the final planting date, he/she shall contact the crop insurance agent to review policy and options.

Acreage ineligible for prevented planting credit includes, but is not limited to, acreage:

- * Not planted because of management decision – failure to plant when other producers in the area were planting will result in the denial of the prevented planting claim.
- * Where pasture or another forage crop is in place on the acreage during the time that planting of the crop generally occurs in the area.
- * Where any volunteer or cover crop is hayed, grazed, or otherwise harvested for the acreage for the same crop year.

Contact the FSA office to make an appointment for crop reporting, 616-942-4111 X x2

2013 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to certify planted acres by the final dates (listed below) to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Commodity Loans
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insurable Crop Disaster Program (NAP)

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares.

Crop Reporting Deadlines:

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Sod

Late Fees:

Due to changes in program provisions for timely-filed crop reports, late fees for 2013 Crop Year Certifications will be waived. No such provision currently exists for the following crop year, **after September 15, 2013 late fees will apply.**

Farm Changes - Deadline to Request Recon

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to your local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office to update your file.

The deadline to request a reconstitution, a farm land combination or division for 2013 is August 2, 2013.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

Online Data Tool for Public

The USDA Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Program Statistics query tool, known as REGStats, is the official new tool of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for making program application and participation rate data available to the public on the Internet.

The REGStats website provides summary information about the number of individuals and entities that apply for, and receive, federal assistance from four USDA agencies or mission areas – the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development (RD), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The information available in REGStats includes the number of applicants and recipients, by fiscal year, for USDA programs available to agricultural producers and landowners, categorized by race, ethnicity, and gender. Summary totals may be obtained nationally, or by state and county for the 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories.

Visit the online site: <http://www.regstats.usda.gov>

June Interest Rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans

7 year term - 1.25%

10 year term - 1.750%

12 year term - 2.0%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 1.125%

Important Dates

- **June 14th** - General CRP sign-up ends
- **June 17th** - COC Nomination period begins
- **July 4th** - office closed in observance of Independence Day
- **July 15th** - crop certification deadline
- **August 1st** - last day to file COC nomination forms
- **August 2nd** - 2013 DCP sign-up ends
- **August 2nd** - final date to request a 2013 reconstitution

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).