

October 2012



Lenawee County FSA Updates

Lenawee County Power of Attorney

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For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business. If you are interested, please contact any Farm Service Agency office for more information. In some instances, such as with market assistance (commodity) loans, a power of attorney form must be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the loan document on the day the loan is disbursed.

Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops

Attention hay and wheat producers! This is a reminder that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops and forages has changed. The new acreage reporting date is **November 15, 2012**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat and forage crops. **Please call for an appointment to certify. We will have your maps ready.**

Prevented planting on wheat must be reported by November 9, 2012.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program increased to \$1,302,000 on October 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

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 loans.

Contact us with questions about farm loans.

County Committee Elections

Local Administrative Area 3 will elect a County Committee Member this year. This includes farm owners and operators in the following townships: Raisin, Ridgeway, Palmyra, Blissfield, Deerfield, Ogden and Riga.

Watch your mailbox for your official County Committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 5, 2012. Nominees are Dale Terry of Palmyra (incumbent) and James Tipton of Blissfield. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify us. If you own, operate or share in a crop and do not receive correspondence from us, please call 263-7400 extension 106. We don't want to omit anyone who is an eligible voter. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

2008 Farm Bill Expiration

Farm Service Agency Administrator, Juan Garcia, stated earlier this month:

"USDA is committed to carrying out its program authority to the greatest extent possible, but upon expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill the Department's authority to deliver programs will remain very limited until Congressional passage of a new Food, Farm and Jobs Act or other statutory extension of USDA's program authority."

The following programs are authorized under separate legislation and will continue, uninterrupted:

- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL)
- RMA Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP)
- Crop Certification/Reporting
- Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Although authority has expired, the following contracts will be honored:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) (Final payments have been issued.)

-Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)

Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Consider or continue NAP coverage!

November 20 -

Sales closing date for 2013 NAP apricots, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, cane berries (raspberries), grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb, and strawberries.

December 1 -

Sales closing date for 2013 NAP honey and maple sap.

Don't forget to provide production records for your 2012 crops after harvest! Production must be provided in order to properly calculate approved production history (APH) yields. FSA encourages producers to bring this in as soon as it is available.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).