



Monroe County FSA

January-March 2013

USDA Service Center
1137 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, Michigan 48161

(734) 241-8540 phone
[See extensions below]
(734) 241-9432 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monroe Staff

Christina L. Salenbien, County
Executive Director (Ext.107)

Carole F. Bogoski, PT (Ext.110)
Roger P. Bezek, PT (Ext.108)
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Michael D. Jordon, Farm Loan
Manager (Lenawee County)

Dates to Remember

January 18th – Deadline for NRCS
EQIP Program Sign-up

January 21st – **MLK Day**
(Office closed)

February 4th- Deadline to return
Census of Agriculture surveys

February 18th – **President's Day**
(Office closed)

March 5th- USDA Meet & Greet

March 15th- Deadline to buy NAP
insurance (spring-seeded crops)

June 7th – SURE Program Deadline

July 15th –Spring-seeded crop
certification deadline

Report Changes in Your Operation

It is cold outside- now is the perfect time to come into the Farm Service Agency office to report your farm changes!

Throughout the year, the Monroe FSA office works hard to update changes in your farming operation. Correct ownerships, leases, legal descriptions and boundaries, new producers, shares, farming entity changes, and partnership agreements are just a few of the pieces of information we work hard to update on a yearly basis.

However, we can't update your records if **YOU** don't come in to tell us!

Complete and accurate USDA records are key to participation in **ALL** of our farm programs here at FSA and other USDA agencies. If your records are not up-to-date, you may lose all of your program payments and benefits. It is in your best interest to come in and report changes as they occur.

Please contact the Monroe FSA Office at (734) 241-8540 to report changes as soon as possible.

USDA Service Center Meet & Greet

FSA will be hosting a Meet & Greet, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Monroe Conservation District (MCD), on Tuesday March 5th 2012. Producers and landowners are encouraged to stop by between 10:00am and 2:00pm to meet staff members and learn about programs for which they may be eligible. Light refreshments will be available.

Producers will be able to schedule program appointments, obtain MCD Annual Tree Sale order forms, and learn about existing program opportunities. Producers can report any changes in farming operations and provide any necessary documentation for the 2013 crop year.

Representatives from the Farm Service Agency, NRCS, Monroe Conservation District, and Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) will be on-hand to provide details on these programs.

County Committee Election Results

The County Committee Election ballot-counting for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 was held on December 6th 2012. Mr. Richard Janssens was re-elected by eligible voters as the incumbent representative for LAA#3, which encompasses Dundee, Frenchtown, Monroe, Raisinville, and LaSalle townships.

Richard is a cash grain farmer in Monroe Township. He has been farming in Monroe County for almost 60 years and is very active in the community. Richard serves as a current or past board representative for many local agricultural organizations, including Monroe County Farm Bureau, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Michigan Soybean Association, and Monroe County Agricultural Council. Richard is also a Monroe Charter Township Trustee, on the Monroe Township Zoning Board of Appeals, and a member of the Knights Of Columbus.

Please join us in congratulating Richard! He will serve his final three-year term beginning January 1st 2013.

Hispanic and Women's Claims

This process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. The deadline to file a claim is **March 25th, 2013**.

Please contact the following with inquiries:

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

The next scheduled COC meeting will be **April 25th 2012 at 8:30am**. Producers, landowners, and the general public are permitted to attend the regular session meeting. Executive session is limited to only attendance by COC members.

Remember: If you are performing any new/replacement tiling, dredging, draining, ditch cleaning, fence row clearing, or stump removal, contact FSA **before taking action!** Failure to contact the Monroe FSA Office may place your program benefits at risk.

NASS Surveys

For those who have been contacted: Please complete your 2012 Census of Agriculture surveys to the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) as soon as possible.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years across our country's farmland and agricultural communities. USDA, those involved in agriculture, and many others use the results of the Census to make important policy and business decisions that impact people across our nation. The results of the Census show the strength and diversity of U.S. agriculture. NASS mailed out Census forms in late December to collect data for the 2012 calendar year. Completed forms are due by **February 4th, 2013**. After receiving a form, producers can fill out the Census online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov or fill out the form and mail it back. Respondents are guaranteed by law that their information will be kept confidential. All NASS reports are available on line at: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, please call the Michigan Field Office at (800) 453-7501.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Program (CCC-931 AGI forms & promissory notes) and Farm Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact a local FSA office.

Purchase NAP Coverage by March 15th!

Spring weather will be here before you know it! Be sure to purchase your Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) insurance for spring-seeded crops before the **March 15th** deadline! The fee is \$250 per crop (up to 3 crops for each county), and there is no limit to the number of crops covered under a \$750 fee! Please contact the Monroe FSA Office to sign up or for more information.

NAP & ACRE Production Reporting

FSA reminds producers who are first-time NAP participants with coverage for the 2013 crop year of production and reporting requirements. These producers need to submit a minimum of three (up to ten) years of production in order to establish their 2013 approved yield. Other NAP participants must report any production not previously reported for 2012.

ACRE producers are required to submit the current year production for your ACRE farm by July 15th in the year immediately following harvest. The final date to report production for 2012 ACRE crops is **July 15th, 2013**.

At this point, a new five-year farm bill has not been enacted. In the event that a farm bill is enacted in upcoming months, County Offices will be faced with the task of implementing a new farm bill while completing the collection of information required under the 2008 Farm Bill. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if producers submit 2012 harvest production well in advance of the reporting deadline.

LDPs for Wool and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible wool and/or unshorn lamb producers have until **January 31st, 2013** to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for wool and unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2012 year.

To qualify for payment, producers must have beneficial interest in the product and the wool and/or pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from sheep or unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Reminder about 1099 Forms

Beginning in calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were 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 exceeded \$600.00. Please contact the Monroe County Office with questions regarding your 2013 payments.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-Up

Did you have crop insurance in 2011? Did you have a minimum 10% production loss in any one crop? If you answered “yes” to both, you might be eligible for a payment under the 2011 SURE program!

Producers can enroll in the SURE program for 2011 crop year losses beginning **October 22, 2012** and ending **June 7, 2013**. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

During 2011, Monroe County received a primary Secretarial Disaster Designation, which allows producers with a 10% loss to apply. To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Monroe County FSA office at: 734-241-8540, ext. 2 or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

NRCS EQIP Deadline Approaching

The Monroe County Conservation District (MCD) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have begun accepting applications for the 2013 EQIP sign up. EQIP offers cost share to producers for the implementation of conservation practices, including nutrient management plans, cover crops, agrichemical handling facilities and many others. This is part of an ongoing effort to protect natural resources and restore local watersheds by improving land management practices. The application deadline for this first sign up will be **Friday, January 18th, 2013**.

Marketing Assistance Loans (9-Month Commodity Loans)

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically lower at harvest time. Loans mature on the last day of the ninth (9) calendar months following the month in which the loan is approved. The current interest rate is 1.125 percent.

Crop	Loan Rates	Final Availability Date
Corn	\$1.92/bu	May 31, 2013
Soybeans	\$5.08/bu	May 31, 2013
Soft Red Wheat	\$2.85/bu	March 31 st 2013
Oats	\$1.38/bu	March 31 st , 2013

NOTE: Loan rates will be reduced 30% for commodities that are grown on farms enrolled in ACRE.

Emergency Farm Loans

FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Monroe County was declared a primary disaster county in 2012 and is therefore eligible for Disaster Loans through the Farm Loan Programs. **The final date to apply for a 2012 disaster related loan is April 29th, 2013.**

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at your Monroe FSA County Office.

Foreign Landowner 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. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farm Loan Borrowers—Be Prepared

Producers who have farm loans (operating, ownership, emergency, or conservation) with FSA are reminded that you must provide data for a Year End Analysis (YEA) to your loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide balance sheets, projected cash flows and actual income and expense statements timely so that your files can be maintained. The Lenawee County office will be contacting you for this data beginning in January of 2012. Please be prepared!

Bank Changes- Has your account changed?

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payments could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delays.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of farm loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. Please contact Farm Loan Manager Michael Jordon at (517) 263-7400 for additional information.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under **federal or state law** of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the **four** succeeding crop years for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

---For up to 5 years after the first conviction, 10 years after the second conviction, & permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits as follows:

- up to one year upon the first conviction
- up to five years after a second or subsequent conviction.

Important Dates/Deadlines

- January 15th, 2013**- FSA deadline to report selected perennial crops (apples, grapes, peaches, cherries, & blueberries)
- January 18th, 2013** – NRCS deadline to apply for first round of EQIP program for 2013.
- January 21st & February 18th, 2013** - Office closed in observance of MLK Day and President’s Day, respectively
- Last Week in January**- Farm Bill Meeting (Date/Time and Location TBD)
- January 31st, 2013**- Last Day to request Wool Loan or LDP
- February 1st, 2013**- Deadline to certify Maple Sap (number of eligible trees and Taps)
- February 4th, 2013** - Final date to return NASS Census of Agriculture surveys.
- March 15th**- Deadline to apply for NAP coverage for many spring-seeded crops for crop year 2013
- March 25th, 2013**- Deadline for Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims period.
- March 31st, 2013**- Final date to request a 2012-crop small grain and honey loan (wheat, oats)
- May 31st, 2013**- Final date to request a 2012-crop feed grain or oilseed loan (corn, soybeans)
- June 7th, 2013**- Deadline to sign an application for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program
- July 15th, 2013** – ACRE farms must submit all 2012 production. *If you have production records readily available after harvest we will gladly accept production evidence early. (Also, this date is the deadline to report spring-seeded 2013 crops).

From the CED’s desk:

As we weather these cold winter months, the staff here at FSA continues to remain busy. We successfully issued annual batch payments for CRP and DCP, with 2011 SURE sign-up going on now. As always, we are working to quickly complete 2013 farm and tract reconstitutions and ownership/lease changes. Now is the time to report changes in your operation!

A new MIDAS computer system will be implemented for all of our FSA program operations over the several months. Please continue to be patient as we transition to this improved system.

As you know, our office has shared in the national budget woes-with a reduction in staff, salary freezes, reduced operating budget, etc. We take pride in working our hardest to best serve you through these difficult financial times. With uncertainties surrounding the new farm bill, we are often waiting alongside you for updated information. We will continue to put our producers first, and we look forward to working with you in 2013!

Sincerely,
Christie & the Monroe Staff

Selected Interest Rates for January 2013

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership- Direct Joint Financing	5.000%
Farm Ownership- Limited Resource	5.000%
Operating- Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans- Amount of Actual Loss	2.250%
Conservation Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 year)	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 year)	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 year)	1.875%
Commodity Loans (1996-Present)	1.125%
Late Payment (Jan-June)	1.375%

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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 20250-9410, 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.