

May 2013



## Saginaw County FSA Updates

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### Saginaw County FSA Office

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Saginaw, MI 48609

Phone: 989-781-1720  
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**County Executive Director:**  
Dennis S. Curtiss

**Program Technicians:**

MaryUrbanke  
Ronda Hildebrandt  
Michelle Fauver  
Cindy Jones  
Kathy Wirostek

**Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Senior Farm Loan Officer:**

Jonathan LaPorte  
Phone: 989-875-3900

**Farm Loan Technician:**

Teri Hedrick

### COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

Contact your local FSA office for details.

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### Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the **July 15th deadline**. Fall Wheat must be certified no later than NOVEMBER 15, 2013.

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## DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **August 2, 2013** deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end **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 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.

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## CRP Sign-Up Starts May 20th

USDA will conduct a four week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning **May 20 and ending June 14**. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years. Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

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## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Farm operating loans are available as well as loans to 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 applicants. 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. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders,

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## Farm Record Change

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to the 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.

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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).