

February 2013



Sanilac County FSA Updates

Sanilac County FSA Office

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DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 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.

Contact your FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

MILC Program Extension

All approved 2012 MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers do not need to re-enroll in MILC. MILC operations with approved contracts will continue to receive monthly payments, if available.

Dairy operations may still select a production start month other than October 2012. **Producers who wish to change their production start month must visit their local FSA office between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013**, also known as a relief period. Even though the dates may have passed already for you to change your start month, this change can still be made between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013.

MILC payments are available for September, 2012 and October, 2012 production. If you have not already submitted production evidence to this office and wish to be paid for these months, please submit your milk stubs at your earliest convenience.

Please note that NO MILC payments can be paid until a completed 2013 CCC-933 form is received in this office for processing. The CCC-933, "AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION", is a requirement for receiving payments from this office.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact your local FSA Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farming Operation Changes

Changes in the way you operate must be reported timely. If you have formed a partnership, joint venture, Limited Liability Company, corporation, added or removed members of your entity, or dissolved such an entity, you must inform your county office to maintain your eligibility for certain program benefits.

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from your operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

Farm Loan Customers: Upon receiving an application for direct loan assistance the authorized agency official shall ensure that the type of operation reflected on FSA-2001 is consistent with any representations previously made by the applicant for FP benefits.

A loan application **must** be submitted in the name of the actual operator of the farm. Two or more applicants applying jointly will be considered an entity applicant. The Agency will consider tax filing status and other business dealings as indicators of the operator of the farm.

Foreign Buyer 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.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) 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.

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).