

June 2013



## Sanilac County FSA Updates

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### Sanilac County FSA Office

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Sandusky, MI 48471

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**County Executive Director:**  
Rosemarie Gallagher

### Program Technicians:

Amy Brown  
Kim Deming  
Jamie Maier  
Brenda Nichol  
Sherri Sadro

**Farm Loan Specialist:**  
Steve Craig

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
David J. Hemker

**Farm Loan Technician:**  
Felicia Schulte

**County Committee:**  
Michael Bender  
Constance Kreger  
Sharon Rockwell

### 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.

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### 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

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### June Interest Rates

#### 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%

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## 2013 FSA County Committee Elections

Attention producers in Flynn, Elk, Buel, Lexington, Maple Valley, Speaker, Fremont and Worth 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.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

### **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.

### **Who Can Hold Office**

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

### **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.