

April 2015



NEWSLETTER



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Michigan FSA Newsletter

Michigan Farm Service Agency

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State Committee:

Cheryl Kobernik, Chairperson
Art Lister Jr., Member
Annette Magda, Member
Dr. Eddie Moore, Member
Robert Walther, Member

Filing A Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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Executive Director:

Christine White

must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Division Chiefs:

David Russ, Farm Loan

Eric Fischer, Production Adjustment

Ken Schapman, Price Support

Dale Allen, Conservation

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Final Availability Dates for Marketing Assistance Loans & Loan Deficiency Payments

May 31, 2015 is the final availability date for MAL and LDP payments for the following crops: Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet

- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

Designated Disaster Areas in 31 Michigan Counties

Thirty one (31) Michigan counties were recently designated as primary disaster counties due to various weather related events during 2014. Producers in these affected counties, along with those in 39 contiguous counties, may now be eligible for Emergency Loans. These counties were impacted by excessive rain, cooler than normal temperatures, and drought conditions during the 2014 growing season.

With these designations, producers with operations in a primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses directly related to the weather event(s).

Producers have eight (8) months from the date of the designation to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. If eligible, producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

To determine whether your County was impacted by these designations, contact your local [FSA office](#). For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Tired of farming through or around those wet areas?

After snow melt every year we are reminded of those wet areas that we will soon have to contend with. You wonder if this year's conditions will permit you to farm through them or if you will have to work around them. Further, you wonder if you are able to plant them what type of yield you can expect. Well, worry no more, for many of these areas are eligible to be enrolled into the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). In return for planting a conservation cover on these areas you will receive 50% cost-share to do so, a guaranteed known annual rental payment (**Note: Most of Michigan's CRP Soil Rental Rates have recently increased**) and other financial incentives, besides doing something that benefits the environment.

Remember: Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) rules of the Farm Bill prohibit persons who receive USDA benefits from bringing new highly erodible lands into crop production without a conservation plan or from converting wetlands into cropland (including the removal of woody vegetation).

The CCRP has a practice available to address just about any resource concern you may have on your working agricultural land.

For more information on the CRP, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

MAL and LDP Policy Changes for Crop Years 2015-2018

The Agricultural Act of 2014 authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), with a few minor policy changes.

Among the changes, farm-stored MAL collateral transferred to warehouse storage will retain the original loan rate, be allowed to transfer only the outstanding farm-stored quantity with no additional quantity allowed and will no longer require producers to have a paid for measurement service when moving or commingling loan collateral.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2015 MALs and LDPs for wool as well as LDPs for unshorn pelts. MAL and LDP requests for all other eligible commodities will be accepted after harvest. FSA continues to accept MAL and LDP requests for 2014 crops with upcoming deadlines.

Before MAL repayments and LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution.

Additionally, form CCC-902 and CCC-901 must be submitted for the 2014 crop year, if applicable, with a county committee determination and updated subsidiary files.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ](#), Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website www.fsa.usda.gov.

2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable:

- May 31, 2015: (2016 crop) **Nursery** (Ornamental and Non-Ornamental)
- July 15, 2015: **Beans** (Adzuki, Black Turtle, Cranberry, Great Northern, Kidney, Dark Red Kidney, Light Red)

Kidney, White Kidney, Pinto, Small Red, Small White/Navy, Tebo, *--Yellow Eye), **Cabbage** (Planted 3/31-5/31), **Cucumbers** (Planted 5/10-6/15), **Forage Seeding** (new seedings), **all other crops**

- August 15, 2015: **Beans (all other types), Cabbage (Planted 6/1-7/20), Cucumbers** (Planted 5/15-7/20 in Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties), **Cucumbers** (Planted 5/10-7/31 in Allegan, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties), Cucumbers (Planted 6/16-8/5 in St. Joseph County)--*
- September 30, 2015: (2016 Crop) **Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Turfgrass Sod**
- November 15, 2015: (2016 crop) **Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains**
- January 2, 2016: (2016 crop) **Honey** (remember to report directly after moving or splitting colonies)
- January 15, 2016: (2016 crop) **Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Chestnuts, Cranberries, Currants, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Rhubarb, and Strawberries.**
- February 1, 2016: (2016 crop) **Maple Sap**

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 31, 2015**: Final Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP Availability date for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed
- **May 31, 2015**: Acreage Reporting deadline for Nursery crops (ornamental and non-ornamental)
- **Continuous**: Farm Loan applications may be accepted at any time.
- **Continuous**: Continuous Conservation Reserve Program offers may be made at any time (includes CREP and SAFE).

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).
