

April 2013



Washington/Warren/Saratoga County FSA Updates

Dates to Remember:

- May 1, 2013 - Deadline to file for Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims
- May 15 - Deadline to report spring forage seedings
- May 20 - CRP signup starts
- May 27 - Office Closed-Memorial Day
- June 7 - 2011 SURE signup deadline
- June 14 - CRP signup ends

Wash/Warren/Saratoga County FSA Office

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MILC Update

Due to sequestration, payments in FSA programs have been suspended. MILC payment rates are as follow:

October	\$.02368
November	\$ no rate
December	\$ no rate
January	\$.11800
February	\$.52224
March	- to be determined

We will be making MILC payments as soon as the suspension has been lifted.

2013 DCP signup Continues

Producers are encouraged to signup for DCP before the August 2, 2013 deadline. The 2013 DCP program requirements are unchanged from 2012. All DCP direct payments are scheduled to be paid in October. Please call Keisha to make an appt. to sign up before you get busy with field work.

Acres 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. Producers who request prevented planting must report their acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, part B within 15 days after the final planting date. Producers will need to provide documentation showing field preparation, seed purchase, and other information that proves their intent to plant the acreage.

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 May 15 deadline on spring forage seedings and onions and a July 15 deadline on corn and all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of the above dates, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Example: if a producer of strawberries had NAP coverage and plans to begin harvest on June 15, then the producer must file by June 1 to avoid late filing. Our office will be sending out postcards with appointments to report your crops. If you finish planting earlier, then don't wait for your postcard, call Patti to set up an appointment.

Microloans are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producer to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact our office.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling **1-888-508-4429** Mon-Fri 9am-8pm Eastern time or downloading the forms at www.farmerclaims.gov.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at 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 Joanne by June 1 to report your farm record changes.

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).