

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

3302 18TH STREET SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

FEBRUARY 2013

A Quality Environment

NRCS Offers Financial Assistance for Conservation Practices Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions * New*

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial assistance to Iowa agricultural producers for installing conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2013 to be eligible for priority funding. A second application cutoff date has also been set for March 15, 2013.

Through the Conservation Innovation Grant – Greenhouse Gas (CIG-GHG) project, NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance for conservation practices such as **nutrient management, no-till, cover crops, and conservation crop rotations.**

EQIP Applications Accepted at any Time Funds Still Available

Currently we do not have many applications for EQIP and we would like to build up our list so our county allocation of \$106,000 is fully utilized. If you have interest in **Cover Crops, Livestock Waste Facilities, No-Till /Strip-Till and /or other practices**, we may be able to develop a program for you and your farmland.

All applications are subject to ranking criteria and your application does not assure acceptance. Dickinson County allocates 60% to Livestock and 40% to Cropland resource concerns. Stop in the office to learn more or to fill out an application.

Shelterbelts and Windbreaks — Never too Late to Plan

Now is the time to take a look at your farmstead or other areas to see where you could use a Shelterbelt and/or a Windbreak. Although some of Dickinson County's

winters aren't as cold and snowy as others, on windier days you may have wished you had a windbreak for added protection against the elements.

When you look at your established shelterbelts or windbreaks; do you see trees or shrubs missing or an area that needs a new **shelterbelt or windbreak?**

Farmstead shelterbelts / windbreaks have long been a feature of the Midwestern landscape sheltering wildlife, livestock and farmsteads from winter's harsh grip.

Now is the time to plan a Shelterbelt or Windbreak.

A successful project requires several basic steps: (1) selection and ordering planting stock, (2) proper preparation of planting site, (3) Suitable planting techniques, and (4) proper care after planting.

Look for the 2013 Tree Sale flyer included with this newsletter

Contact us at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 to learn more about potential cost-share programs and to receive technical support.

WRP Easement Applications can now be taken at the NRCS office

Applications will be ranked when funds are appropriated for the either a new Farm Bill or extension of the existing Farm Bill. 2013 Rate Caps have been raised according to a market survey, but depend on CSR of application area.

Continued on reverse side

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Steve Anderson Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

They vary from \$8,415 for CSR > 70, \$6,545 for CSR 59-70 and \$5,507 for applications with less than 59 CSR points. Pasture rates are capped at \$2,570 and timber is capped at \$2,509.

NRCS is aware that current land values are higher than this, but these are the caps in place for Northwest Iowa. WRP Easements do not purchase title to a property only land rights outlined in the easement. Easements are permanent in length and are recorded with the deed of a property when fully completed. The program restores the property to prairie and wetlands where feasible and title remains with the applicant. The property can be sold after the easement is filed, but all subsequent owners are bound to the terms of the easement.

Dickinson SWCD Foundation Scholarships

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation announces the availability of **two \$500 scholarships** that will be presented to Dickinson County Graduating High School Seniors. These scholarships are to be used for the first year of education on the college or vocational school level.

The **District Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is offered for any field of agriculture or natural sciences studies (this includes a broad array of studies) and in addition, the Dickinson winning application will be forwarded to compete in the Conservation Districts of Iowa's (CDI) Auxiliary Annual Scholarships.

The **Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is not limited in the course of study. The applicant needs to submit two (2) typed copies of their application and must use the Jo Groves application form.

High school seniors must submit their applications to the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District no later than March 1, 2013.

Applications can be obtained from the High School Counselors at Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake or Graettinger/Terril High Schools, OR by contacting the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake at 3302 18th Street, by calling 712-336-3782, ext. 3, or by e-mailing: maxine.butler@ia.nacdnet.net

NRCS Staff—Dickinson:

Mark Schutt, District Conservationist
Betty Romero, Soil Conservation Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

Claim Filing Period for Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Who Claim Past Discrimination at USDA ends soon. **Those Eligible Must File Claims No Later Than** **March 25, 2013**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

"Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices from the USDA must file a claim by March 25, 2013 in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness," said Secretary Vilsack. "The opening of this claims process is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure fair treatment to all current and future customers."

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications 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.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate. Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

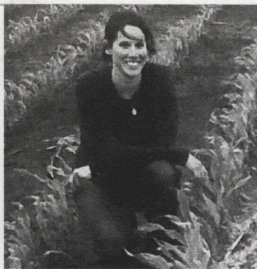
District Staff:

Anand Hase, IGL Targeted 319 Coordinator
Derek Namanny, Urban Conservationist
Catherine Sereg, Silver Lake 319 Coordinator
John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator

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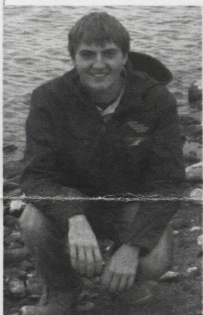
Silver Lake Watershed Project

As we start to take a look back at 2012, the Silver Lake Watershed Project has seen major successes. The project has completed construction of three sediment basins, over 600 acres within the watershed has applied a cover crop and multiple landowners have installed rock tile intakes. These combined practices have reduced 70 tons of sediment per year from getting into Silver Lake.



The project is looking forward to this coming year with many more successes to be had. Some planned projects are sediment basins, grade stabilization structures, bank stabilization and a bio-retention cell located in Lake Park. For any questions about the Silver Lake Watershed Project, contact the project coordinator, Catherine Sereg, at 712-336-3782 Ext.3.

Urban Conservation



Promoting and installing urban conservation practices has been a component of the Dickinson SWCD's mission for multiple years now. The district has accomplished this mission through education of local residents and municipalities about urban conservation, along with leading by example, by installing over 200 urban practices within the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed alone.

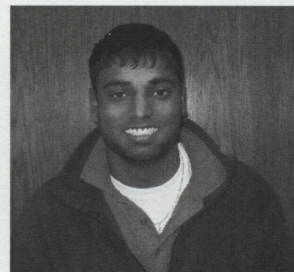
Last year the Dickinson SWCD assisted with installing a keystone urban project in the Green Space at the Arnolds Park Preservation Plaza. The project consisted of installing a large pervious paver patio that has three bio-retention cells that surround it. This patio is used as the base for the large tent that is put up for events in the Green Space. These practices capture and filter over six acres of urban drainage before it runs into West Lake Okoboji.

Looking ahead to 2013, the Dickinson SWCD will be undertaking a large urban conservation project that will address urban runoff concerns within the Center Lake Watershed. Multiple practices will be installed within the City of Spirit Lake that will capture and filter multiple acres of storm water runoff, along with taking pressure off of an undersized storm sewer system that services the area. These practices will begin construction this summer.

If you feel you may have some opportunities to install urban conservation practices on your property, or would like to learn more about the urban conservation project within the county, feel free to stop by the USDA Service Center or call Urban Conservationist Derek Namanny at 712-336-3782 Ext. 3 to learn more.

New Project Coordinator for the Iowa Great Lakes Targeted Watershed

Anand Hase is originally from the rural town of Alta in northwest Iowa. He attended ILCC in Estherville before attending and graduating from Iowa State University in 2011.



Before accepting the project coordinator position, Anand has worked with natural resource state agencies in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska in both wildlife and fisheries management.

Anand is currently in transition of familiarizing himself with the Iowa Great Lakes watershed, looking at upcoming plans for the project, and making contacts with local land owners. He is excited to be in the area and is opportunistic about maintaining/improving the local water bodies. He will be dabbling in the urban conservation practices but will mainly work with the agricultural aspect of the watershed. He has a semi-farm based background and is looking forward to working with the local residents, landowners, and producers.

The project will be focusing some efforts on improving Center Lake's water quality through urban and agricultural conservation practices in the upcoming months along with the rest of the Iowa Great Lakes. There are plenty of urban and agricultural practices that can make a difference in cleansing the water before it reaches our lakes. These practices not only improve water quality, but also improve and provide wildlife habitat, birding habitat, scenic views, land quality and land value. Thanks to multiple agencies and partners, there are funds available to help assist in installing urban and agricultural conservation practices in the Iowa Great Lakes watershed.

Whether you live on a farm or in town; we all contribute one way or another to the decline in water quality through our actions. If each of us takes part in moving forward towards better water quality we will all be able to enjoy the Iowa Great Lakes for many generations to come. No practice or small change in methods is too little to have a positive impact in water quality.

If you have any questions, curiosities, or just wanting to learn a little bit more about the conservation options available please feel free to contact Anand Hase at 712-336-3782 Ext. 3 or by email at: anand.hase@ia.nacdn.net

This mailing sent to you courtesy of

Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District Foundation
3302 18th Street Suite 2
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 11



Look for the
2013 Tree Sale
flyer
included
with this
newsletter

***Coming this spring to Northwest Iowa a
No-till Conference in Merville***

***Topics include no-till, corn on corn, cover
crops, and manure application.***

Tentative dates— early to mid-March

**New Staff at NRCS Spirit Lake Management Unit
(Dickinson and Emmet Counties)**

Hani Nguyen – began her duties as the Resource Conservationist in Estherville on October 9, 2012. She will be occasionally assisting producers in Spirit Lake as well as Estherville. Hani has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Minnesota and has worked with NRCS in Iowa, Michigan, and California before returning to Iowa. She will help with EQIP and CSP contracts.

Michael Mahoney began his duties in Estherville office as a Soil Conservation Technician on January 14, 2013. He will also assist Dickinson County landowners with the application of conservation practices as needed. He comes to Iowa from Massachusetts with a Masters Degree in Environmental Science.

**The Benefits of Prescribed Fire
on Private Lands**

Fire is terrible, right? Not always. Though fire is often times thought as life-threatening disasters, prescribed burning can actually help landowners improve the quality of their property and its value. By intentionally setting *controlled* fires at the right time you can greatly improve wildlife habitat, increase pasture productivity, and enhance native plant communities.

Fire acts like nature's "gardener" by removing unwanted trees, shrubs, and dead plant material. After a spring burn, the blackened soil quickly absorbs sunlight. This warms the earth stimulating seed germination. Charred plant remains turn into a nutrient rich fertilizer, encouraging new plant growth.

In pastures, fire can advance green-up in the spring and improve forage quality for cattle and other livestock. In ungrazed areas, the new growth and dense vegetation that follows provide a great place for pheasants, deer, waterfowl, and other non-game species to hide, nest, and raise their young.

In short, prescribed fire isn't as terrible as one may think; it has multiple benefits whether your land is in pasture, prairie, or woodland. It can increase plant diversity as well as improve quality.



Dickinson SWCD Foundation

2013 TREE SALE

Questions or need a species not listed? Contact our Sale Coordinator, Mark Ingwersen at 712-330-5290 or the SWCD office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3

FOR OFFICE USE ↶

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Deciduous Trees	Bundled	Size	Price/Bundle	Bundles	Total
Red Oak	10	3-4 ft.	\$25.00		
Silver Maple	10	4-5 ft.	\$25.00		
Sugar Maple	25	2-3 ft.	\$50.00		
Hybrid Willow (Austree)	25	2-3 ft.	\$35.00		
Potted Coniferous Trees	Each	Size	Price/Each	Each	
Scotch Pine	1	15-18 in.	\$10.00		
Black Hills Spruce	1	15-18 in.	\$10.00		
Black Hills Spruce	1	18-24 in.	\$16.00		
Colorado Spruce	1	15-18 in.	\$10.00		
Colorado Spruce	1	18-24 in.	\$16.00		
Eastern Red Cedar	1	15-18 in.	\$10.00		
Coniferous Transplants	Bundled	Size	Price/Bundle	Bundles	
Eastern Red Cedar	25	9-15 in.	\$40.00		
Shrubs	Bundled	Size	Price/Bundle	Bundles	
Common Lilac	10	2-3 ft.	\$20.00		
Late Bloom Lilac	10	2-3 ft.	\$20.00		
Amur Maple	10	2-3 ft.	\$20.00		
Nanking Cherry	25	2-3 ft.	\$40.00		
Chokecherry	25	2-3 ft.	\$40.00		
Cranberry Bush	25	18-24 in.	\$55.00		
Redosier Dogwood	25	3-4 ft.	\$40.00		
American Plum	25	2-3 ft.	\$40.00		
Flags	Bundled	Size	Price/Bundle	Bundles	
Colored Flags	100		\$8.00		

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Subtotal: _____

plus 7% Sales Tax: _____

Total: _____

50% deposit attached: _____

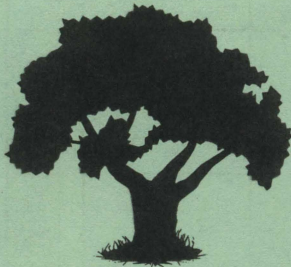
balance due at April pickup: _____

Order before Feb 25 for best selection and to avoid shortages
No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices
Sizes are estimated and subject to nursery availability

Make checks payable to
Dickinson SWCD Foundation



Dickinson SWCD Foundation
3302 18th Street
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360



The Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District Foundation holds a tree and shrub sale beginning in December. Cost-share may be available from various funds for practices such as: Farmstead/Field Windbreaks, Acreage Windbreaks, Shelterbelts, Riparian Tree Buffers, Wildlife Plantings, etc. To receive cost-share funds on your tree practice you may purchase your trees from any source, but you must follow a tree planting design developed by a Technician from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Please contact the NRCS office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, to learn if you would qualify for cost share and/or to request technical assistance.

Orders may be placed at the Soil & Water Conservation District office at 3302 18th Street in Spirit Lake (in the USDA building just west of KUOO Radio Station) or by calling the Sale Coordinator Mark Ingwersen at 712-330-5290. A minimum deposit of 50% of your order is required in order to process it and the balance will be due when you pick up your trees & shrubs in April 2013. Notice of pick-up dates will be mailed at a later date.

100% deposit required on special ordered species.

There is no survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.
Sizes are estimated and may be subject to change due to nursery availability.

Please call the Sale Coordinator at 330-5290 to reserve the "Tree Planter".



FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

3302 18th St., Suite 1, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 7444 712-336-3782 ext. 2,
8:00 AM– 4:30 PM (Monday – Friday)

January 2013

FARM BILL EXTENDED - USDA/FSA FARM PROGRAMS AFFECTED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) for many Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity, disaster, and conservation programs through 2013. We in FSA administer these programs.

The extended programs include, among others: the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC). Currently FSA is preparing the following actions:

- FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on February 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013; 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 (and vice versa).
- All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to September 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in MILC. Specific details regarding certain modifications to MILC will be released soon.

We will provide you with more FSA farm program information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available to us over the course of the next several weeks. For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, please visit our FSA county office or for additional details and fact sheets go to FSA's national website online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

For us to more efficiently communicate with you to receive farm program information and updates quicker, producers also encouraged to sign up for **GovDelivery** in order to receive electronic communications from our local FSA office. Due to reduced budgets and less money being allocated to use for postal expenditures, we are not going to be allowed to mail out newsletters or post cards as we have in the past. Please assist us in helping provide you the most up-to-date FSA USDA farm program information and details on program benefits and services by receiving this information from us electronically through FSA GovDelivery. We can provide you more information on the GovDelivery process or you can sign up for it yourself online. To begin using GovDelivery, subscribe online at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe or contact us at the Dickinson County FSA office for subscription assistance.

USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving towards a paperless operation, therefore farmers are being provided this more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information. Enrolling in the new GovDelivery system will provide you FSA & USDA agency news releases, newsletters, and program reminders electronically directly to your email inbox.

GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information. Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest. FSA, like many other federal agencies, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

IRS REPORTING CHANGES TO IRS FORM 1099-G AND 1099-MISC

Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, FSA will not generate and mail IRS Form 1099-G and/or IRS Form 1099-MISC to producers if the total of reportable payments for each tax identification number is less than \$600. Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, Kansas City will also be issuing one IRS Form 1099-G and/or one IRS Form 1099-MISC to each multi-county producer whose total reportable payments for each tax identification number are equal to or greater than \$600. 1099s are scheduled to be mailed to producers by our KC office in the next several weeks.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION / WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE –

Also known as: 'SODBUSTER/SWAMPBUSTER' COMPLIANCE

Maintaining compliance with HELC (Highly Erodible) and WC (Wetland) provisions is required to remain eligible for most FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program benefits. For participants with HEL fields, they must be in compliance with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in a conservation plan. This is nothing new and has been part of overall program policy since 1985.

Prior to any land clearing or drainage activities or projects you must contact the FSA office to complete Form AD-1026, HELC and WC Certification. This includes clearing trees or brush, bringing any acreage into agricultural production (even if it was in production at some point in the past, taken out of production for some reason, and now the desire is to bring it back into production). It is important to note that wetland compliance violations can occur in several situations including:

- 1) Draining, dredging, filling, leveling, etc. an area determined to be a wetland to the point where producing an agricultural commodity is possible (it is not the act of planting a crop but simply the action of doing the draining, clearing, etc.),
- 2) Improving drainage on land that may be currently in production but is determined to be a farmed wetland (i.e. the acreage was being farmed before 1985 but meets certain criteria and is considered a 'farmed wetland'- these areas may be farmed and maintained in the same manner as long as they are not abandoned but drainage/tiling actions cannot be done that would improve or enhance the system),

- 3) Other actions that result in wetlands being converted. These above examples are different from acreage that is determined 'prior converted' that was cropped before 12/23/85, does not meet farmed wetland criteria, and, therefore, are generally not subject to WC provisions.

On any acreage already identified as being highly erodible land, contact NRCS before doing any tillage (or grazing livestock) if it is not currently written into your conservation plan. The amount of required old crop residue needed to be present on the soils surface immediately after planting could be a condition for you to remain in compliance. Likewise if you convert native vegetation, pastureland, old CRP, or any other area for which an HEL determination has not been made by NRCS, a sodbusting compliance violation could occur. NRCS is required to conduct status reviews on a percentage of farms every year to see if conservation plans are being followed on HEL tracts. If there is not enough crop residue because of tillage operations or livestock grazing, those tracts will likely be found out of compliance. This could result in losing all program payments on all farms in all counties for the affected participants.

Please follow your approved NRCS conservation plans and discuss any intended tillage, drainage, clearing, or filling activities with FSA/NRCS that result in a loss of adequate residue or result in sodbusting or swampbusting before you undertake the activity. Review your conservation plans on all of the land you have an interest in every year and in you need further information or want to modify your conservation plan because of a change in farming practices or an intended activity described above, discuss with FSA/NRCS first. Areas you may think should be easily eligible to be cleared because the area is relatively flat and you would assume would not subject to HELC provisions could be determined to be a wetland and any conversion would then make everyone associated with the area ineligible for benefits. It is your responsibility to notify FSA and NRCS of your intentions to clear ground, improve drainage systems, deviate from an approved conservation plan on HEL land, etc. before you do these actions so that you can become well informed of the classification of the land as well as the consequences of the intended actions as it relates to USDA farm program benefit eligibility. Contact the Dickinson County FSA or NRCS offices for more details.

CHANGES IN FARMING OPERATIONS - RECONSTITUTIONS - PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

If you have any intended changes in your farming operation, such as land ownership, shares in crop, boundaries of fields, removal of fences, building site changed, changed tenants, rented additional land, your address changed, telephone number changed, or financial institution changed for direct deposits, formed a Trust, LLC, Corporation or an estate has been opened or closed please notify the FSA office prior to the change to discuss how your eligibility for programs may change as a result of the intended action. If you acquired new land, a copy of the ownership document, such as deed, contract, warranty deed, change of title, etc. is required with the official filing date stamp from the courthouse.

Likewise all producers are required to certify their Farm Operating Plan (FOP) for eligibility for most FSA programs. All programs have a maximum payment limitation that can be earned, an adjusted gross limitation, and a determination of eligibility for the payment is required. When you file your FOP for the first time you are not generally required to complete a new plan UNLESS there are changes to your farming operation that may require a new determination of eligibility. These changes may include but are not limited to the following:

- Bringing new land into the operation that is not listed on your current FOP (this includes spouse/child)
- Change in rental arrangements from cash rent to share rent, or share rent to cash rent.
- Bringing new members into the operation or taking over an operation
- Change in members of an entity such as a corporation, LLC, LP, trust, estate, partnership, etc.

Please be aware it is the producer's ongoing responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in a producer's operation immediately so that FSA can update records and work with the producer on the effects of the operation change to avoid loss of eligibility or program payments and benefits.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum allowable principal amount of a FSFL loan is \$500,000. Borrowers are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15%, with CCC/FSA providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the principal amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. The current interest rate for loans approved in January 2013 is 1.125% for a 7 year loan, 1.625% for a 10 year loan, and 1.875% for a 12 year loan. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA Office that maintains the farm records. For the producer to remain eligible for a FSFL loan, the FSFL application must be filed by the producer and the application approved by FSA, before any delivery, site preparation or construction can actually begin on the farm.

COMMODITY LOANS ON 2012 CROPS

Commodity loans remain available for 2012 crops with the Dickinson County Loan rates being: Corn = \$1.84/bu., Soybeans = \$4.89/bu., Oats = \$1.43/bu. The loan rate is based upon where the commodity is stored. A commodity loan matures the 9th month after the month the loan is approved. The interest rate used is the rate Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) borrows from the U.S. Treasury plus 1% therefore for loans disbursed in January 2013, the interest rate is 1.25%. The final date to apply for a 2012 commodity loans for corn or soybeans is May 31, 2013. The final date to apply for a oat or wheat loan is March 31, 2013.

Phone: 712-336-3782 extension 2 - **Fax:** 712-336-1445 - **Email:** larry.lago@ia.usda.gov

County FSA Committee: Linda Hemphill, Vince Elser, Walter Brunsvold

Program Technicians: Theresa Dalen, Karen LaCour, Janet Smith

County Executive Director: Larry Lago

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