



Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for 2010 Crop Loans and LDP's:

- 31-Jan Peanuts, Wool, Mohair
- 31-Mar Wheat, Barley, Oats, Honey, Sesame, Canola
- 31-May Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates:

- 1-Dec Honey
- 31-Jan All annually planted crops, both spring and fall
- 15-Aug Perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing, carrots, and all value loss crops

Additional Program Deadlines:

- Now Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers
- Now Emergency Conservation approved applicants -- report completed practices to FSA
- 1-Apr - 31-Aug CRP Nesting Season
- 1-Jun Deadline to enroll into Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
- 15-Jun The consent forms, CCC-927, "2009 and/or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual," and/or CCC-928, "2009 and/or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity," should be **mailed directly to IRS** at the address given on the form
- 15-Jul Deadline to report Spring and Summer-seeded planted acreage
- 2-Aug (2010) Deadline for requesting the reconstitution of a farm with crop bases
- 2-27 Aug (2010) General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- 30-Sept Signup Ends for The 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- 1-Nov Deadline to initiate "Successor In Interest" transfers for Tobacco Transition Buy-out contracts with approved buyers as well as initiating contract transfers between immediate family members

NOTE: If the crop being reported has NAP coverage, the final date to timely report the acreage is 15 days PRIOR to the onset of harvest or grazing. It is important for producers to remember that crops with NAP coverage will usually have a NAP crop reporting date EARLIER than the regularly established reporting dates for crops without NAP coverage.

Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:

- 4-Aug-10 Designation S2946 in 57 counties due to severe storms and flooding
- 9-Aug-10 Designation S2953 in 6 counties due to excessive rain, extensive flooding and cooler than normal temperatures
- 23-Aug-10 Designation S2956 in 17 counties due to excessive rain, flooding and flash flooding
- 31-Aug-10 Designation M1870 in 4 counties due to severe storms and flooding
- 8-Sept-10 Designation M1870, Amend. 1, in 3 counties due to severe storms and flooding
- 29-Sept-10 Designation S2971 in 10 counties due to record cold weather, frost, and freezes
- 4-Oct-10 Designation M1871 in 1 county due to severe winter storms and flooding
- 2-Nov-10 Designation S2979 in 156 counties due to excessive rainfall
- 6-Dec-10 Designation S2988 in 1 county due to excessive rainfall
- 3-Jan-11 Designation M1908 in 3 counties due to severe storms, tornadoes, straight line winds and flooding

NOTE: All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information specific to the Emergency Loan Program and to determine whether their counties are declared under a certain designation.



Farm Programs

Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

Eligible borrowers may apply for Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) at their administrative county office that maintains the farm records for the applicable farm and crop for renewable biomass, cold storage, hay and all other commodities. The applicant must provide all documents necessary to support their application. The applicant may apply for new storage or to renovate a current facility.

The most recent Farm Bill allowed cold storage as well as hay and biomass storage structures to be approved for the first time.

An applicant must be a person that is a landowner, landlord, operator, or sharecropper that meets the following eligibility requirement:

- a need for increased storage
- satisfactory credit history
- no delinquent Federal nontax debt
- produce a FSFL commodity
- proof of multi-peril crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on all eligible crops
- compliance with HELWC
- ability to pay the down payment required
- compliance with NEPA
- not convicted under Federal or State law of controlled substance violation

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) should have security in all loans that have no resale value and other structures in additional security are required. FSFL's are considered to be adequately secured when the real estate security and the project equal the FSFL loan amount. The minimum down payment is 15 percent of the net cost. The down payment may be in cash. The interest rate for the loan is the rate in effect during the month the initial FSFL application is approved and remains in effect during the entire term of the loan.

Interested applicants must remember that a structure may not be started or completed prior to the application being approved. For more information contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

ELAP Payments Issued to Qualifying Producers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Hobby Stripling announced that over \$338,000 in disaster assistance has been issued to Georgia honeybee and livestock producers that suffered eligible, qualifying losses in 2008 and 2009 because of adverse weather or other conditions. The aid comes from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

“The Obama Administration is committed to helping producers who have suffered devastating losses due to natural disasters and this program will allow eligible producers that suffered qualifying losses in either 2008 or 2009 to receive emergency assistance payments that may be critical to their survival,” said Stripling.

In Georgia, more than \$320,000 was issued to compensate beekeepers for 2008 and 2009 losses primarily associated with Colony Collapse Disorder with the remaining funds disbursed to livestock producers for feed losses due to flooding. Under ELAP, producers are compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

County Committee Members – How They Get There and What They Do

The election of responsible agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FSA county committee (COC) members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees.

Each Georgia COC consists of three to five members. The committee may also include appointed advisors who advocate for underrepresented groups and assist in outreach activities. The COC member's job is a public trust. Members are expected to serve the public faithfully; represent the area as a whole; make informed, fair, and impartial decisions; maintain strict confidentiality; have a good understanding of FSA programs and what they accomplish; and follow law and regulations.

Now that you know what being a COC member entails, make a special effort to vote in the next election – it will make a difference.

August 2, 2010: Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office.

November 5, 2010: Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 6, 2010: Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA Loans – Helping to Ensure the Stability of Georgia’s Family Farms

Georgia Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes hundreds of loans each year to farmers who need a helping hand. Whether it’s a young person or a young family trying to buy their first farm or a veteran facing temporary adversity, FSA provides financial assistance that helps to ensure the well being of Georgia agriculture.

FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible loan applicants who operate family farm size operations. A family farm size operation is generally considered to be one that a family can manage and operate by itself. FSA makes direct loans and also provides guarantees on loans made by eligible conventional lenders.

Under the Guaranteed Loan Program FSA guarantees loans made by eligible conventional agricultural lenders up to 95% of any loss. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees, and FSA will monitor the lender’s servicing of the loan. Farmers interested in Guaranteed Loans apply directly with a conventional lender, who then arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans. Funding for Direct Loans is more limited and applicants sometimes must wait until funds are available before they can receive a loan. FSA works with the applicant to analyze the situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor the loan to meet unique circumstances of the applicant. Loan funds can be used for a variety of agricultural purposes to assist the applicant achieve a viable farming operation.

In Georgia, FSA administers its Farm Loan Programs through 69 County Offices with 11 Farm Loan Offices. For Direct Loans, interested farmers can apply at the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center serving the area where the farming operation is conducted. For a Guaranteed Loan, interested farmers should apply to a commercial agricultural lender who participates in the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program. The lender then submits the loan proposal to the local FSA Farm Loan Office for consideration of a FSA guarantee. Farmers seeking more information on the availability of farm loans are encouraged to contact their local FSA office. FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

Loans Available To Rural Youths

FSA makes operating loans to eligible individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, or similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process.

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. citizen (or permanent resident).
- be between 10 and 20 years old.
- live in a rural area, city or town of less than 50,000 people.
- be unable to obtain a loan from other sources.
- conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised work program.

These loans may be used to finance many kinds of income-producing agricultural projects. The loan funds may be used to buy livestock, seed, equipment, and supplies; buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment; and pay operating expenses for the project. To apply, the applicant must submit completed plans and budgets signed by the project advisor and parent or guardian along with the FSA application for loan assistance.

These loans have a maximum loan amount of \$5,000 (total principal balance owed at any one time cannot exceed \$5,000); have an interest rate which is determined periodically, based on the cost of money to the federal government. The loans will be secured, in addition to promissory notes, by liens on the products produced for sale and on chattel property, including livestock, equipment, and fixtures purchased with loan funds. The youth loans will have a repayment schedule which varies depending on the type project for which the loan is made.

For more information interested persons may contact any of the Farm Service Agency offices located in local USDA Service Centers throughout Georgia. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available on the FSA Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov, or by contacting your local FSA county office.

Georgia Farm Service Agency
355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 100
Athens, Georgia 30601-2775

Producers are reminded when they have an address change due to 911 upgrades or relocation, to please contact your local FSA office to update your address.

!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!!

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General
Signup - Begins August 2, 2010 ~ Ends August 27,
2010**

**2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance
Payments (SURE) Program - Signup Ends
September 30**

Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for more information.

Georgia State FSA Newsletter

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the main source for information contained in this educational newsletter. Eligibility and participation for all FSA programs is determined in accordance with FSA rules and regulations. Contact your local FSA Service Center to determine program eligibility.

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Newsletter is published by the Georgia FSA State Office. Contact your local USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency listed in the phone book, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to obtain a free subscription or make address corrections.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Kula C. Moore, 706-546-2269.

For information, please first contact your local FSACounty Office.