

Columbus NJ FSA  
1971 Jacksonville  
Jobstown Road  
Columbus NJ 08022



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## MAY 2011

### FSA OFFICE

#### Burlington Camden Ocean

1971 Jacksonville  
Jobstown Road,  
Columbus, N.J. 08022

609-267-1639 phone  
609-261-3007 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ)

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### County Committee

George H. Adams Sr.  
Marilyn L. Russo  
Louis Parzanese  
John H. Hunter  
Ralph W. Wainwright

#### COC meets:

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
(call office for times)

#### County Staff

Nick Morolda CED  
Robert Maxwell FLM  
Jim Mellor PT  
Craig Christo PT  
Julia Coriary PT

### Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 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.

Acreage reports are necessary for many Farm Service Agency programs and are required to be certified by the **May 31, 2011** deadline on small grains and the **July 15, 2011** deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP (Noninsured Crop Assistance Program) are due in the county office by the earlier of the deadlines above or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Dates to Remember	
May 20	EQIP Organic Initiative deadline
May 27	BCAP Proposal Deadline
May 31	Small Grain Reporting Deadline
May 31	Ornamental Nursery reporting ends
June 1	ACRE Signup Ends
June 1	2011 DCP Enrollment Ends
July 15	2011 Crop reporting deadline

Selected Interest Rates for April 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 Year	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10 Year	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 Year	3.75%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to 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 to 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. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

#### Election Period

June 15, 2011 - The nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - 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 at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business Aug. 1, 2011.

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 may also 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.

## NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date.

Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

## NAP Loss Filing

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 CCC-576 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 the CCC-576 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.

## County Committee Elections

This year elections will be held in LAA 1 and LAA 2. LAA 1 consists of Bordentown, Chesterfield Township, North Hanover Township and Pemberton Township. Marilyn Russo currently represents LAA 1.

LAA 2 consists of Burlington Township, Florence Township, Mansfield Township and Springfield Township. Ralph Wainwright currently represents LAA 2.

A County Committee election informational meeting will be held at the Columbus Service Center on June 15, 2011 at 10:00am. Anyone interested in the nomination and election process is invited to attend.

## 2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through **June 1, 2011**. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

For more information on this or other FSA programs, contact the nearest FSA office.

## 2009 SURE PROGRAM

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Grazed acreage is not eligible for the NAP program. Crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed

at least 5 percent or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm

Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss

Applications for the 2009 SURE Program are being accepted and must be signed and on file by the deadline date of **July 29, 2011**.

There are certain conditions that trigger SURE payments. For details and clarification call or stop by the local FSA office.

## BCAP Proposal Deadline

Project area proposals for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) must be submitted to the New Jersey Farm Service Agency state office by close of business, May 27, 2011. BCAP provides incentives to eligible farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and production of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. BCAP project areas are specific geographic areas where producers grow eligible biomass crops. Producers then receive annual payments for growing those crops.

For more information, visit the USDA Farm Service Agency's website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap) or contact Kelly Novak at 202-720-4053 or [cepd-mail@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cepd-mail@wdc.usda.gov). The BCAP project area proposal submission form is available online at BCAP Form 20 (PDF), [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/bcap\\_form\\_20.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/bcap_form_20.pdf)

## Assistance for Livestock Losses

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)** - Provides Emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** - Provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Conservation Assistance for Organic Producers

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist for New Jersey Donald J. Pettit announced another funding opportunity for certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic production to implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations.

Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000.

Under EQIP Organic Initiative contracts, NRCS provides financial payments and technical assistance to help producers implement conservation measures in keeping with organic production. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers may obtain additional assistance.

The 2008 Farm Bill limits EQIP payments for organic operations to \$20,000 per year per person or legal entity, with a maximum total of \$80,000 over six years.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – Provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster.

Sign-up for 2011 losses in these programs is also under way. Producers with 2011 losses must file an application no later than Jan. 30, 2012. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or Oct. 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. Benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012. For details and clarification call or stop by the local FSA office.

## Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Important Budget Impact Information

**Paul J. Hlubik,**  
**State Executive Director**

As you are aware, the 2011 FY federal budget was recently approved with significant reductions. Some programs have been impacted and administrative operating money has been reduced. In order to maximize services to you, we are making some minor changes.

We will no longer make mass mailings of maps, contracts, etc. Maps of your operation will be available to you if you contact the office in advance and bring with you a new, unopened USB flash drive (storage stick), CD or DVD. This will make it very convenient to you to have this information on your own computers. For those requesting paper maps, please arrange for them to be picked up.

The number of newsletters will be reduced as will the number of written reminders mailed to you. Travel to meetings will be reduced as well as other steps to reduce administrative dollars. We encourage you to mark your calendar with important sign up dates and reporting information. It is also very helpful when you keep your scheduled appointment and bring with you the documents you need.

If you provide the office with your e-mail address or fax number, we can update you on the latest program information. In addition, the COC meeting schedules may need to be adjusted so contact the office in advance if you plan to attend.

We believe these changes will have minimum impact to you while still saving tax dollars. Please report any problems with these proposed changes to the CED who will include the information in their weekly reports to me. Our goal is to continue to provide quality service to you, our producers and borrowers.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1, 2011, for farms enrolled in specific programs