



SECRETARY VILSACK DISPELS RUMORS



Some recent news stories have focused on suspicions and rumors about the Obama administration's work on agriculture. The truth is that the President, EPA Administrator Jackson and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and producers so we can be the best possible partner for successful operations. These efforts are helping farmers enjoy some of the best incomes they have seen in decades.

Sadly, rumors and misconceptions have become the norm, not the exception, especially when it comes to regulations and how they might affect our nation's producers.

First, it was that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was considering treating spilled milk like an oil spill. Not true. And in terms of water regulations, EPA has made it clear that recent rules do not seek to regulate land that occasionally ponds during heavy rains.

Regulation of farm dust is another frequently repeated myth, based on a congressionally-mandated review that the EPA has conducted every 5 years for decades. We all know you can't farm without dust. And EPA has no plans to propose stricter standards.

And the Department of Transportation announced just last week that it has no intention of proposing any new regulations or rules on the transport of agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm.

Perhaps more importantly, the Obama Administration has worked to be the most accessible and collaborative in history. The President and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and other producers and actively collaborating across the federal government to help everyone understand the facts of American agriculture.

I maintain a regular dialogue with Lisa Jackson at EPA and we even visited farms in Iowa together. The collaborative partnership we enjoy is reflected in our policies: pursuing common-sense standards that will give farmers a seat at the table and let them make the decisions they feel are best for their own operations.

One result of this sort of collaboration is that in 2009 and 2010, the federal government issued fewer new rules than it did in 2007 and 2008.

As you hear from producers about their concerns, I know you will continue to be helpful in providing them with the information they need to help their operations succeed, and not to get caught up in rumor or exaggeration. And you should urge folks with additional questions to contact the EPA directly, where they should be able to get further help in separating fact from fiction.

EPA and USDA understand that if we are going to solve the major environmental challenges of our time – combating climate change, reducing soil erosion, and ensuring an ample supply of clean water and healthy food for our families – farmers must help lead the way.

FSA Office **Burlington** **Camden** **Ocean Counties**

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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:

2nd Tuesday of Month
Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

County Staff

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



Wind damaged sweet corn



NAP LOSSES MUST BE FILED WITHIN 15 DAYS!

A Notice of Loss (NOL) 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. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a NOL within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

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

To be eligible, NAP coverage must have been purchased by the applicable sales closing date and crop acreage must have been reported and certified prior to filing a notice of loss.

2012 NAP Coverage Deadline for barley, clover, grass hays, mixed forage, rye and wheat (insurable) is September 30th 2011.

2011 ELAP AND LIP SIGN-UP

The USDA Farm Service Agency's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) has sign-up deadlines approaching.

We encourage all producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA office to get a quick start in the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant.
- Oct. 31, 2011.
- or no later than January 30, 2012.

EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation &
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Loans may not exceed \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien;
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age;
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements;

- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources;
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above;

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

SURE RULES

Legislative authority for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will end on September 30, 2011. Producers must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive SURE assistance for disasters that occur on or before September 30, 2011, and affect fall 2011 and 2012 crops.

Crops are not required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011, to maintain SURE eligibility. A loss claim will only trigger after FSA determines that the loss was because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011. Losses that result from disasters that occur after September 30, 2011, will not be eligible for SURE benefits.

Producers with 2011 and 2012 crops that suffer losses caused by disasters that occur on or before September 30, 2011, must also meet the following criteria:

- For insured crops, the insurance policy defines the coverage period as beginning on or before September 30, 2011
- For Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, the coverage period begins on or before September 30, 2011
- The final planting date according to RMA and FSA (NAP crops only) occur on or before September 30, 2011.

If the crop is planted prior to September 30, 2011, but the final planting date is after September 30, 2011, the crop will not be eligible for SURE benefits."

The sign-up period for 2011 and 2012 SURE will not begin until after the national average market prices are determined for each respective crop year, which is normally one year after the applicable crop year.

E-Newsletter: In an effort to save money Farm Service Agency will be moving to an E-Newsletter in the future. If you would like to receive our Newsletter via email, please provide our office with your email address. Newsletters are currently available on the State FSA Website.

SAFE PROJECTS

Enrollment in New Jersey State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) continues.

SAFE practices serve to restore wildlife habitat by establishing small blocks of grassland (10-40 acres) and enhancing existing habitats. Certain wildlife species are in decline and SAFE habitats are designed to help revitalize these populations.

Under SAFE, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10--to 15-year contracts. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

In addition to the annual rental payment and cost-share, SAFE may offer participants an upfront one-time Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per each SIP-eligible acre and a Practice Incentive Payment when cost share is made.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural

Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2011

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.625%
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	1.875-2.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**
www.blackfarmerscase.com or call 1-866-950-5547.
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

CONSERVATION CORNER

Apply by December 30 for Funds to Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Agricultural Land

New Jersey farmers and farm managers still have time to apply for funding to support projects on their agricultural land that will improve or develop fish and wildlife habitat. State Conservationist Donald J. Pettit has extended the sign up period for the 2012 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to December 30, 2011. "Through WHIP, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide technical and financial assistance to establish and enhance habitat for priority species and habitat types, which will help keep New Jersey's environment healthy," Pettit said.

Priority habitats are grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, disturbance-dependent areas such as the Pine Barrens, pollinator habitats and bog turtle habitat. The New Jersey priority area is the Delaware Bay which includes Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties.

To participate in WHIP, applicants must own land capable of being farmed or land suitable for wildlife habitat; or have an interest in an agricultural operation, including forestry, and own or have control of the land under consideration.

To apply, visit NRCS at your [local USDA Service Center](#). More information about conservation programs is available online at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

Conservation Programs that Address YOUR Needs



The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows eligible producers and landowners to address their conservation needs. In most cases with 100% of the cost covered!

Don't let erosion ruin your valuable cropland. With Farm Service Agency funding you can repair and reclaim eroding ground.

After, stabilized waterway



100%
of costs
covered

Before, gully erosion



50% Federal Cost-Share
40% Practice Incentive Payment
10% State Cost-Share
Equals 100% satisfaction.

Eligible practices:

- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Grassed Waterway
- Grass Filter Strips
- Contour Filter Strips

For more information call
Burlington-Camden-Ocean County
FSA Service Center at: (609) 267-1639

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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 20250-9410, 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."