



Flooding from Hurricane Irene blew out several impoundments like this one in Burlington County

Crop and Physical Damage due to Heavy Rains

The County office has received numerous calls from producers that have suffered crop damage as well as physical damage due to the heavy rains and that started at the beginning of August and peaked when Hurricane Irene hit New Jersey September 2nd.

We encourage all producers that suffered physical damage to report it to the county office for documentation purposes in case disaster assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) becomes available.

Emergency (EM) Loans are available to producers that suffered losses. See page 2 for details on EM loans.

NAP Participants Should Report Losses Within 15 Days.

Producer that suffered crop losses should report those losses as soon as possible. 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.

FSA Office
Burlington
Camden
Ocean Counties

1971 Jacksonville
 Jobstown Road
 Columbus NJ 08022

Phone: 609-267-1639
 FAX: 609-261-3007

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





Crop Coverage Application Deadlines

November 20th

NAP

- Cane berries
- Grapes
- Onions
- Plums
- Shallots
- Scallions

Crop Insurance

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cranberries
- Peaches

December 31

NAP

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Greens
- Herbs
- Horseradish
- Kohlrabi
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Parsnip
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Radish

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.

2010 SURE to Open November 14th

Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will begin Nov. 14, 2011.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) to provide assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters.

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss means at least a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Producers outside a declared disaster county, but with production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm), also qualify for SURE.

To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and/or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

Note: Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged," "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet this requirement.

Information Needed for the SURE Application:

- Acreage and production records, if not already provided for the crop insurance program or for NAP;
- Information to establish eligible producer status on the farm;

Additional information can be obtained through our office or at www.fsa.usda.gov/sure

FSFL to be Funded in 2012

Borrow up to \$500,000 for Hay, Grain and Temperature Controlled Storage

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, including cold storage for fruits, vegetable and even grapes used in wine production.



Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, hay, renewable biomass, fruits and vegetables

Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement during construction and the remaining payment after construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

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.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

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 August 2 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

Selected Interest Rates for October 2011

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.25%
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	1.50-2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

County Committee Elections



Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

2012 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will begin January 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

CONSERVATION CORNER

NRCS Deadline

December 30, 2011 is the sign up deadline for the following programs:

- Agriculture Management Assistance
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program, EQIP
 - Conservation Activity Plans
 - Forestry

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.blackfarmercase.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 Programs that Address YOUR Needs

Don't let state regulations hurt your bottom line.
With Farm Service Agency funding you can
protect the stream without going broke.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA FSA
CREP

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!

**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
The Columbus Service Center at
(609) 267-1639**

"The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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."