



## 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup Begins

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end **June 1, 2012**. Contracts must be enrolled by June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are no late filing provisions for this program. All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes
- Change in crop shares arrangements.

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

In past years producers could receive 22% of their direct payment as an advance. Starting with 2012 DCP participants will receive 100% of their direct payment in October with no advances available.

Producers who participate in DCP may plant cropland in excess of the total base acreage on the farm to any commodity.

However, producers are subject to certain restrictions on the planting of wild rice, fruits, and vegetables

For each commodity, the total direct payment for the 2012 crop year for producers on a farm is determined by multiplying 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times the farm's direct payment yield times the direct payment rate.

Fruits and vegetables (FAV) may be planted on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE and be considered an authorized planting when 1 of the following exceptions applies: FAV is double-cropped with a covered commodity in an established FAV double-cropping region, farm has history of planting FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm.

- producer has history of planting a specific FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm.
- All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509 by June 1 of the contract period.

### **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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ)

#### **Hours**

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

**County Committee**  
 George H. Adams Sr.  
 Michael 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





## County Committee Election Results

### LAA 1

Michael Russo  
Tim Haines *alternate*

### LAA 2

Ralph Wainwright

### *Congratulations to the winners!*

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

## Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses runs through **June 1, 2012**. To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have 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 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, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops 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 producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged," "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer," do not have to meet this requirement.

Information needed to apply for SURE:

- 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;

## Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## FSA Adopting GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.



Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

## Acreage Reporting for 2012



Most Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs require an acreage report to be filed in order to participate. Crop Insurance Programs require acreage reports in order to verify a crop's existence, or to establish Actual Production Histories. Conservation Programs use acreage reports to determine cropping history on specific tracts of land to establish practice eligibility. Other programs use acreage totals to establish expected crop yields or to determine your own actual yields.

In order to have a complete acreage report on file, the following information is needed for each crop and field that you have planted. Accuracy Counts!

- Crop, Type & Intended Use (ex: Watermelon, Seedless, Fresh)
- Field location and boundaries
- Crop Acreage
- Planting Date
- Available Irrigation

Different types of crops have different acreage reporting deadlines, but the most common deadlines are listed below. Please contact your local county office if you have questions about a particular crop's deadline

### MAY 31

Small Grains; Wheat, Barley, Rye, Oats

### JULY 15

Most Annual crops, CRP, GRP

### 15 Days After Planting

Any crop planted after its acreage reporting deadline

### 15 Days Before Onset of Harvest

NAP covered Crops

## Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate

records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.50%
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	1.375-2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%



## Customer Statement

January signals the time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that is available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

# Conservation Programs that Address YOUR Needs



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

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!

After, stabilized waterway



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**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

"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."