

April 2014



**REQUIRED: Insert Table of Contents Here**

- [USDA Sets Date For Soybean Request For Referendum](#)
- [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?re](#)
- [Microloans Direct Loans and Emergency Loans](#)
- [Socially Disadvantaged Applicant and Changing Bank Accounts](#)
- [NAP Reminders](#)
- [Important Dates and Interest Rates](#)

---

## Burlington Camden Ocean County FSA Updates

---

**Name County  
FSA Office**

### USDA Sets Date For Soybean Request For Referendum

**FSA Office  
Burlington Camden  
Ocean Counties**

1971 Jacksonville-  
Jobstown Rd  
Columbus NJ 8022  
Phone: 609-267-  
1639  
FAX: 855-305-6487  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ)

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2014 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

The Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a Request for Referendum every 5 years after the initial referendum, which was conducted in 1994. The last Request for Referendum was conducted in 2009. Soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the Soybean Checkoff Program are invited to participate.

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

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at USDA's county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2013.

**County Committee**  
John H Hunter -

Beginning May 5 and continuing through May 30, 2014, producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or

Chairperson  
Michael Russo - Vice  
Chairperson  
Ralph W Wainwright  
Tom Allen  
Jennifer Pastore

in person from the FSA county offices. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/SoybeaninformationontheSoybeanRequestforReferendum> during the same time period. Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county FSA office where the producer owns or rents land.

Steve Kwang Yoo  
Minority Advisor

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 30, 2014; or if returned by mail, must be postmarked by midnight May 30, 2014, and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 5, 2014.

**COC meets:**

2nd Tuesday of  
Month

Please contact the  
office if you would  
like to attend.

USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 569,998 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one State.

**County Staff**

Nick Morolda CED  
Matt Pavone FLO  
Jim Mellor PT  
Craig Christo PT

The Soybean Checkoff Program is administered by a 70-member producer board and is designed to expand uses of soybeans and soybean products in domestic and foreign markets. The national Soybean Checkoff Program is financed by a mandatory assessment of one-half of 1 percent of the net market price of soybeans.

Notice of the Request for Referendum will be published in the March 4, 2014, Federal Register.

To receive this  
newsletter  
electronically, please  
provide your e-mail  
address to the county  
office.

For more information, contact James Brow, Research and Promotions Branch; Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2610-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-0633; or via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/SoybeaninformationontheSoybeanRequestforReferendum>.

---

## What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?re

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election program are repealed and replaced by two new programs: Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). Upland cotton is the only covered commodity that is no longer eligible to participate in these programs, but rather, becomes eligible for the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) offered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Until STAX becomes available, upland cotton is eligible for transition payments made by FSA for 2014 and 2015 crops.

The Marketing Assistance Loan program and sugar loans continue mostly unchanged. The Milk Income Loss Contract Program continues through Sept. 1, 2014, unless it is replaced by the Dairy Margin Protection Program prior to that date.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), USDA's largest conservation program, continues through 2018 with an annually decreasing enrolled acreage cap. The contract portion of the Grassland Reserve Program enrollment has been merged with CRP. The Biomass Crop Assistance Program is extended and funded at \$25 million per year.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program has been expanded to include protection at higher coverage levels, similar to buy-up provisions offered under the federal crop insurance

program. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish, and the Tree Assistance Program are continued, with modifications starting in October 2011, and succeeding years. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which covered losses through Sept. 30, 2011, is not reauthorized.

The credit title of the Act continues and improves the direct and guaranteed loan programs that provide thousands of America's farmers and ranchers the opportunity to obtain the credit they need to begin and continue their operations. The changes in the Act provide FSA greater flexibility in determining eligibility including expanded definitions of eligible entities, years of experience for farm ownership loans, and allowing youth loan applicants from urban areas to access loans. FSA's popular microloan and down payment loan programs, important to furthering the Administration's objective of assisting beginning farmers, have been improved by raising loan limits and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

The Act also provides greater enhancements for lenders to participate in the guaranteed conservation loan program and eliminates term limits for the guaranteed operating program, allowing farmers and ranchers the opportunity for continued credit in cases where financial setbacks may have prevented them from obtaining commercial credit.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers various loans programs designed to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Contact your local FSA office for additional information or to schedule an appointment.

---

## Microloans Direct Loans and Emergency Loans

The Farm Service Agency developed the Microloan Program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

The Microloan Program helps farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses.

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is designed to help producers who own or operate farms located in a county designated as a primary disaster area.

Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance certain debts, excluding real estate.

The loan request must clearly document production loss and/or physical loss. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$500,000 in emergency funding. Counties with disaster declaration include: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean and Salem. Contact your local FSA office for additional details.

As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a Direct Operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Direct Operating loans can be utilized by farmers to cover annual running costs or finance capital acquisitions such as tractors, irrigation equipment, high tunnels, farm implements, or other specialized farming equipment.

---

## **Socially Disadvantaged Applicant and Changing Bank Accounts**

### **Socially Disadvantaged Applicant**

As part of the Loan Programs, FSA has provided priority funding to members of socially disadvantaged applicants. A Socially Disadvantaged Applicant (SDA) is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups include: Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

### **Changing Bank Accounts**

All FSA payments are electronically deposited into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers

---

## **NAP Reminders**

NAP is a program, similar to CAT insurance, for crops not covered by other insurance. It is not designed to make a producer financially whole. It will pay benefits when losses exceed 50% of the actual production history (APH), and at 55% of the county price. It will pay benefits when prevented planted acreage is 35% or greater of to be planted acreage.

Crops must be reported before the loss adjuster can review the loss on reported fields. Report production from the previous crop year by July 15 of the next crop year. This is important for updating your APH.

Contact the office within 5 days of harvest to have the loss adjuster perform a Post Harvest Inspection (Final) on all crops in the pay group after harvest is completed.

Notice of Loss must be reported within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent to the producer. Loss adjuster must have the opportunity to examine the weather related damage. An inspection/appraisal is required if the crop is not going to be harvested. Loss adjuster must inspect all crops in the pay group, even if there is not a loss.

---

## **Important Dates and Interest Rates**

### **Important Dates to Remember**

#### **April 15**

Signup begins for LIP, LFP, TAP and ELAP for losses occurring after Sep 30, 2011

#### **May 30**

Soybean Referendum ends

#### **June 15**

Crop report deadline for spring forage seeding

#### **July 15**

Crop reporting deadline for some crops

#### **July 15**

Last day to turn in 2013 production for NAP APH's or loss claims

#### **August 1**

Sales closing date for 2015 Strawberry NAP coverage

### **Interest Rates**

90-Day Treasury Bill **0.125%**

Farm Operating Loans - Direct **2.000%**

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct **4.000%**

Beginning Farmer or Rancher Farm Ownership Direct Down Payment Loan **1.50%**

Emergency Loan **3.000%**

Farm Storage Facility Loans **2.125% thru 2.875%**

Commodity Loans 1996-Present **1.125%**

CCC Borrowing rate-based Interest Charges **0.125%**

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



---

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](mailto:subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com). For all other inquiries, please contact [askfsa@usda.gov](mailto:askfsa@usda.gov).

If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

This service is provided to you at no charge by the [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).

This email was sent to tara.gruber@nj.usda.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: USDA Farm Service Agency · 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. · Washington, DC 20250 · 800-439-1420

