



Topics for July.

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Burlington-Camden-Ocean July 2014 Newsletter

FSA Office Burlington Camden Ocean Counties

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Road , Columbus NJ 08022

Phone: 609-267-1639
FAX: 855-305-6487
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Hours

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

County Committee

John H Hunter
Michael Russo
Ralph W Wainwright
Tom Allen
Jennifer Pastore
Steve Kwang Yoo
Minority Advisor

COC meets:

FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION PERIOD BEGINS JUNE 15

The nomination period for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee has begun.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Nomination forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014. Elections will take place this fall.

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

County Staff

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

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

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, 2014. Ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 1, 2014. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2015.

USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) OFFERS FARM BILL WEBSITE AND ONLINE OVERVIEW OF FARM BILL PROGRAMS

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.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance and Farm Reconstitutions

HELCS & WC

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELCS) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County

Office.

RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm 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.

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.

Save Time – Make An Appointment With FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff.

To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> .

FSA LOANS

Microloans

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.

Emergency Loans

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, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Passaic and Sussex. Contact your local FSA office for additional details.

Direct Operating Loan

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

As part of the Loan Programs, FSA provides priority funding to members of the socially disadvantaged applicant pool. A Socially Disadvantaged Applicant (SDA) is defined by USDA as an individual who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity, without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups include: Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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 August 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 to Remember and Selected Interest Rates for June 2014

Important Dates to Remember

June 15 - Crop report deadline for spring forage seeding

Jul 15 -Crop reporting deadline for most crops

Aug 1 -Sign-up deadline for 2012-2013 ELAP

Aug 1 -2015 NAP strawberry coverage deadline

Aug 1 -Final date for COC nominations

Aug 15 -Crop report deadline for Processing Beans

Selected Interest Rates for June 2014

90-Day Treasury Bill - **0.125%**

Farm Operating Loans - Direct -**2.25%**

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - **4.00%**

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

Emergency Loan - **3.25%**

Farm Storage Facility Loans - **2.250% - 3.00%**

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - **1.125%**

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

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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](#).

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