



September 2010

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County News

USDA Service Center

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County FSA

1318 S. Main Rd.
Bldg 5 Suite A
Vineland, NJ 08360
856-205-1225 (phone)
856-205-0691 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Anthony Melora
Florence Ale
Sue Wheeler
David T. Sheppard Jr.
Charles Muzzarelli Sr.

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of month

County Staff

Angela J. Andreoli, CED
Robert R. Maxwell, FLM
Ellen Schmidt, FLO
Lori Tobin, PT
Lorna Hofstetter, PT
Dawn Freeman, PT



September 9, 2010

Our Office Has Moved

The USDA Service Center, which includes the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, has changed locations. We have moved right across the street. Our new address is 1318 S. Main Rd. Bldg 5 Suite A Vineland, NJ 08360. Our phone numbers and extensions are still the same. Come visit us at our new location!

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For

2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. 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 the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all 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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:



- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- **Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley** harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Announces New Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

TAAF Sign-up Ends Sept 23 for Asparagus, Catfish and Shrimp

Sign-up for the 2009 asparagus, 2009 catfish, and 2008 shrimp Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Program will end September 23, 2010. The program provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible producers. FSA Form 229-1 and other needed documentation must be submitted by the closing date. Late applications will not be approved. Contact your FSA office for details.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for 2011 coverage is as follows:

8/1/2010- Strawberries

9/1/2010- Christmas Trees, Fin Fish, Flowers & Grass (SOD)

9/30/2010- Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye & Wheat

11/20/2010- Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots

12/31/2010- Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips

3/15/2011- Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Sorghum Forage, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon & Yams

5/1/2011- Nursery (**2012 coverage**)

Some of these crops are actually covered by independent crop insurance agents. This will vary by county.

The following crops are covered by independent crop insurance agents for these counties:

Atlantic County- Apples, Blueberries, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, and Soybeans

Cape May County- Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Processing Beans and Soybeans

Cumberland County- Apples, Barley, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and Wheat

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the ap-

pliable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.



Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from the previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2010 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact the office.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, 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 INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.



Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm. Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary

loss of the farm.

- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor." Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Actively Engaged

USDA has rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members cannot exceed \$40,000.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are

not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Forum on Expanding the U.S. Biofuels Market

You are invited to attend a Community Forum on expanding the U.S. Biofuels Market led by USDA on Thursday, September 30, 2010. USDA has outlined a plan on how to develop a successful biofuels market capable of achieving the U.S. Renewable Fuels Standards mandate of not only producing, but also using, 36 billion gallons of renewable transportation fuel per year by 2022. However, this is an interim plan and now the department needs input and feedback from Rural America.

Please review USDA’s plan, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/USDABiofuels>

When: Thursday, September 30, 2010, 9:30am-12:30pm

Where: Rutgers EcoComplex Environmental Research & Extension Center
 1200 Florence-Columbus Rd
 Bordentown, NJ 08505-4200

Questions / RSVP: USDA, Farm Service Agency
 609.587.0104
Tara.Gruher@nj.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
September 30	NAP Closing for Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye & Wheat
September 30	Final date to report value loss crops for 2011: ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ginseng & turfgrass sod
October 11	Office Closed- Columbus day
November 20	NAP closing for Apples, Apricots, Blueberry, Caneberry, Cherry, Cranberry, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots
December 31	NAP closing for Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj>

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