



NEWSLETTER



January 6, 2012

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Frank Hahola and Bernard Beatty! Frank was re-elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area, LAA, #1, servicing Alexandria, Holland, and Kingwood Townships in Hunterdon County, while Bernard was elected to represent farmers from LAA #2, which services Bethlehem, Clinton, Franklin, Lebanon, and Union Townships in Hunterdon County. Frank was elected to his third (3rd) consecutive term, while Bernard was elected to his first (1st) term.

Hunterdon/ Somerset County FSA Office

687 Pittstown Road,
Suite 2
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Phone:
(908) 782-4614 x 2
FAX:
(908) 782-0501
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

County Staff

Doreen Beruck-CED
Virginia Brophy-SFLO
Elizabeth Banko-PT
Laura LaFevre-PT

County Committee

Bernard Beatty
Robert Fulper
Frank Hahola
Gerald Lyness
John Yablonosky
Cynthia Niciecki
(Minority Advisor)

The County Committee meets the third (3rd) Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM. Since meetings are subject to change, please contact the office if you are planning to attend.

The official newspapers are the Hunterdon Democrat and The Courier.

The election results were:



Local Administrative Area #1
Frank Hahola—elected to the county committee, COC
Boyden Stretch—first (1st) alternate to COC
Local Administrative Area #2
Bernard Beatty—elected to COC
Scott Hender—first (1st) alternate to COC

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.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice chairperson.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

Sign up for 2010 SURE continues until June 1, 2012. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred in the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on: farms in counties with a Secretarial disaster declaration, including contiguous counties, that have crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops; or any farm in which, for the applicable crop year, the actual production on the farm was fifty (50) percent or less than the normal production because of disaster related conditions.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the office.

FCIC PROGRAM INTEGRITY

FSA assists the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and approved insurance providers (AIP's) in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to FSA, RMA, or the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Producer information will be provided to RMA and AIP's to assist with claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews.

FSA ADOPTING GOV DELIVERY



FSA offices are moving towards a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new Gov Delivery system which will provide notices, newsletters, and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many 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 email updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.



PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY

Payments and benefits under certain programs are subject to some or all of the following: payment limitation by direct attribution; payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs; actively engaged in farming requirements; cash rent tenant rule; foreign person rule; and average adjusted gross income limitations. No program benefits subject to limitations will be provided until all required forms for the specific situation are provided and the necessary producer eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made. Payment eligibility and limitation determinations may be initiated by the County Committee or requested by the producer.

After 2009, a farm operating plan (payment limitation, CCC-902) is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents, currently on file. If any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, foreign

person, or average adjusted gross income determinations, producers must timely notify the office by filing a revised farm operating plan and/ or supporting documentation, as applicable. Failure to timely notify the office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

There are statutory provisions that require entities, earning benefits that are subject to limitation, to provide names, addresses, and tax identification numbers of the entities' members to the county committee. All applicable payment eligibility and payment limitation forms submitted by producers are subject to spot check through the end of year process.

A determination of not "actively engaged in farming" results in the producer being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming." "Actively engaged in farming" determinations apply to eligibility for Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, DCP, and Average Crop Revenue Election, ACRE, program benefits.

Non-compliance with adjusted gross income provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or by failure to submit a certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to adjusted gross income provisions. Program benefits will be reduced by the amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible person or legal entity in any legal entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average adjusted gross income limitations.

Program Type	Payment	Limitation (in dollars)
<i>Commodity Programs</i>		
Counter cyclical and ACRE payments		\$65,000 (1)
Direct payments		\$40,000 (2)

<i>Conservation Programs</i>	
CRP annual rental payment and incentive payment	\$50,000
CSTP	\$200,000
ECP (per disaster)	\$200,000
EQIP (all contracts for FY 2009-2012)	\$300,000
GRP	\$50,000
WHIP	\$50,000
WRP	\$50,000
<i>Disaster Assistance Programs</i>	
ELAP, SURE, LFP, LIP	\$100,000
NAP	\$100,000
<i>Price Support Programs</i>	
LDP's, MAL's, MLG	No limits
<i>Other Programs</i>	
TAAF	\$10,000 (3)

(1) Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that the direct payments were reduced.

(2) If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a twenty (20) percent reduction in direct payments on each farm that is participating in ACRE.

(3) TAAF payments and counter cyclical payments received by a person or legal entity for the same program or fiscal year are limited to a combined total of \$65,000 if counter cyclical payments are received for covered commodities or peanuts; or a total of \$130,000 if counter cyclical payments are received for both covered commodities and peanuts.

EMERGENCY LOANS

FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. 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; re-organize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts. For more information and an application, please contact Virginia Brophy at (908) 852-2576 ext 110.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA is committed to providing farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee, if you have had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin on **January 23, 2012 and continue through June 1, 2012. For the 2012 program, there will be NO advance DCP payments.** Eligible producers will receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

Direct payments are calculated at eighty five (85) percent of the covered commodity's base acres times the covered commodity program payment yield, times the covered commodity payment rate, times the producer's share of the covered commodity.

Eligible producers who share in the DCP payments for a farm must sign the 2012 CCC-509, DCP/ ACRE contract, by June 1, 2012. The following documents are required, also: a farm operating plan (CCC-902); average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-931); highly erodible land conservation compliance (AD-1026); and an acreage report with respect to all crops and all cropland on the farm (FSA-578). All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the contract and receive a proportionate share of the payment for the farm.

Changes on a DCP farm after June 1st must be reported to the office, such as: ownership changes; producer changes (individual to entity), or changes in crop share arrangements. Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2012.

Producers may plant any commodity on acreage, including base acreage enrolled in DCP. However, producers are prohibited from planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE program unless the commodity is destroyed without benefit before harvest or an exception applies.

Fruits and vegetables or wild rice may be planted on base acres enrolled in

DCP or ACRE, if one of the following exceptions applies:

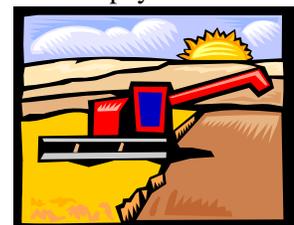
- On a farm that has a history of planting fruits and vegetables or wild rice, except that direct and counter cyclical payments will be reduced by an acre for acre of base acres planted to the fruit, vegetable, or wild rice
- If the producer has an established history of planting a specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice, except that such plantings on base acreage cannot exceed the producer's average annual planting history for the specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice for the 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001 crop years, as determined by the producer. The direct and counter cyclical payments shall be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acres planted to the specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice

Failure to comply with the fruit, vegetable, and wild rice provisions is a contract violation. The violation shall result in the termination of the contract or a reduction in direct, counter cyclical, and ACRE program payments.

IRS FORM 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-G's detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation, CCC. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G 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, the office staff can review payments for accuracy.



Hunterdon/Somerset
Farm Service Agency
687 Pittstown Rd, Ste 2
Frenchtown, NJ 08825



presorted

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FRENCHTOWN, NJ
PERMIT #G-96

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 23rd: 2012 DCP sign up begins

March 15th: 2012 NAP sales closing date for beans, brussel sprouts, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum (Somerset County only), squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons

March 31st: last day to request a 2011 commodity loan for barley, oats, and wheat

May 1st: 2013 NAP sales closing date for nursery

May 31st: last day to report small grains (wheat, oats, barley, rye) and to request a 2011 commodity loan for corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum

June 1st: last day to file a 2012 DCP contract

Continuous: CREP, continuous CRP, SAFE, FSFL

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 a female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this issue and other settlement issues, contact:

- Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process: www.farmersclaims.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

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.