



**U.S. Department  
of Agriculture**

### Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

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### Hours

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

### Staff

Lindsay Spagnoli,  
Acting CED  
John Snearowski, PT  
Diandra Rodriguez, PT  
Debbie Crisman, PT  
Virginia Brophy, FLM

### County Committee

Nancy Bilyk  
Scott Ashley  
Carl Sigler  
Holly Sytsema  
Robert De Block

**County Committee meets  
the last Monday of month  
at 9:00am.**

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Aug 1- NAP closing date for strawberries
- Aug 1 - Deadline to request recons
- Aug 3 - COC nomination deadline
- Aug 14 - DCP signup ends
- Aug 14 - ACRE election and enrollment ends
- Sept 1 - NAP closing date for grass sod, finfish, Christmas trees, nursery and flowers
- Nov 6 - COC ballots mailed out
- Dec 7 - COC ballots due back to FSA office
- Dec 10 - COC ballots counted in the FSA office at 9:00am

# FSA NEWSLETTER

## FSA COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the **August 3, 2009** deadline.

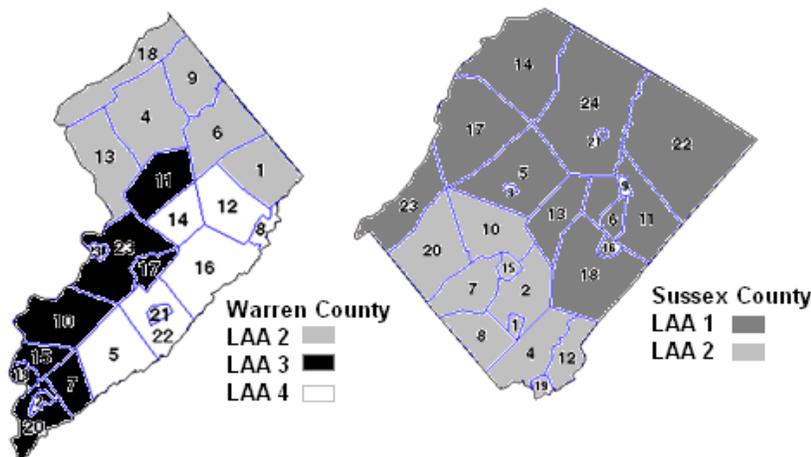
To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 3, 2009**.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning **November 6, 2009**. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by **December 7, 2009**. Ballots will be counted in the office on **December 10, 2009 at 9:00am**. The newly elected committee members will take office **January 1, 2010**.

The Hackettstown Office County Committee is made up of five (5) producers, each representing a Local Administrative Area (LAA). The Local Administrative Areas up for election this year are LAA#2 and LAA#3. LAA #2 contains townships in Southern Sussex County (Andover, Byram, Fredon, Green, Hampton, Hopatcong, Newton, Stanhope, Stillwater) and Northern Warren County (Allamuchy, Blairstown, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick, Knowlton, Pahaquarry). LAA #3 contains townships in Western Warren County (Alpha, Belvidere, Greenwich, Harmony, Hope, Lopatcong, Oxford, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong, White).

**LAA County Boundary Map**



**LAA 5 includes all of  
Morris, Bergen,  
Hudson, Essex, and  
Passaic Counties**

## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2009** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

### DCP vs. ACRE

ACRE payments are based on what you plant, compared to DCP payments that are issued on your historical base acres and payment yields. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. ACRE payments are based on State revenue (price times yield) for a crop, while counter-cyclical payments are based on National prices. ACRE program benefits are paid when both your farm and your State have a revenue loss for the crop. The revenue feature of ACRE has the potential to provide higher payments than counter-cyclical payments and could also provide better risk protection. If you elect to participate in ACRE, you would forgo 20 percent of the direct payments, all of the counter-cyclical payments and 30 percent of the loan rate. ACRE payments are based on recent market prices, which may be higher than the fixed target prices under the DCP program.

Additional information including fact sheets and powerpoints can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp). In addition, State yields and historical prices that will be used when making ACRE payments are posted. An Excel spreadsheet is also available that can be used to determine if ACRE may provide you with the benefits you need.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment to signup for either DCP or ACRE, please contact the office.

## New Payment Limitations

Over time the payment limitation provisions have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

### New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

**Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity**

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in a legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- active personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

**\*Note:** there are exceptions for spouses.

For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.

## New Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after **January 1, 2008**, but before **October 1, 2011**.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

## Recover From Crop Loss

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as the result of a natural disaster. NAP provides coverage for crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available and payments of indemnities are based on individual producer crop losses. Applications are purchased by county and application fees are as follows:

\$250 per crop and planting period, not to exceed \$750 per county. \$750 maximum per county, not to exceed \$1,875 per producer. For additional information, please contact the office.

## Successor in Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away.

FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

## FSA Farm Loans

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

## Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The Farm Loan staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

## Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>  
**\*This service is not affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture.**



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### Selected Interest Rates for July 2009

Farm Operating - Direct	2.50 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	3.25%

### Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to archive a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact the Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

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