



July 2012

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA Office

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: (908) 852-2576
Fax: (908) 852-4666

Hours

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

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

County Office Staff

Lindsay Caragher, CED
Virginia Brophy, SFLO
Megan Everswick, FLO
Diandra Brunstetter, PT
Debbie Crisman, PT
John Snearowski, PT

County Committee

Scott Ashley
Robert De Block
Carl Sigler
James Smith
Holly Sytsema

The County Committee meets the last Monday of the month at 9:30AM.

As meeting dates and times are subject to change, please call ahead if you plan on attending.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline;
- July 15 - NAP Production Reporting Deadline
- Aug 1 - 2013 NAP Closing Date for Strawberries
- Aug 1 - COC Nomination Deadline
- Aug 1 - DCP Late-File Enrollment Deadline

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information. <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet? OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled? The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account? The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

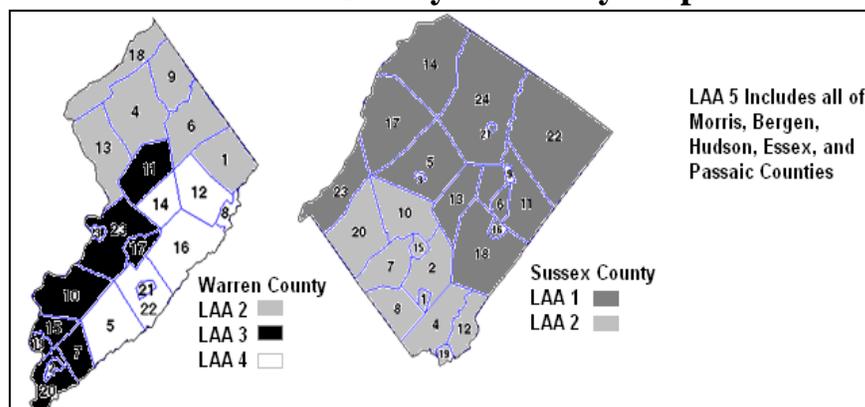
How will this transaction appear on my account statement? The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction? You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

County Committee Elections

The Hackettstown Office is currently accepting nominations for the 2012 County Committee Election. Eligible voters from the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) up for election can be nominated to run. This year's election will include LAA #2 and LAA #3. **LAA #2** is made up of *Southern Sussex County* including the towns, townships and/or boroughs of Andover, Byram, Fredon, Green, Hampton, Hopatcong, Newton, Stanhope, and Stillwater. As well as *Northern Warren County* including the townships and/or boroughs of Allamuchy, Blairstown, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick, Knowlton and Pahaquarry. **LAA #3** is made up of Western Warren County including the towns, townships and/or boroughs of Alpha, Belvidere, Greenwich, Harmony, Hope, Lopatcong, Oxford, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong and White. *Included for LAA #2 and LAA #3 eligible voters is a FSA-669A, Nomination Form for FSA Committee Election.*

LAA County Boundary Map



Please call the office if you are unsure of your LAA number or your status as an eligible voter. Nomination forms must be in the Hackettstown office or postmarked by **August 1, 2012.**

FSA-669A
(02-22-12)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:

I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.

- I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.
- I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

3B. DATE

Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE

4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED

5. COUNTY

6. LAA

7. STATE

8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:

If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.

8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR

8B. DATE

(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- White
- Black or African-American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

GENDER

- Male
- Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2012.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

FSA-669A
(02-22-12)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2012.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The U.S. Department 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.

Selected Farm Loan Interest Rates for July 2012	
Farm Operating – Direct	1.25 %
Farm Ownership	3.375%
Limited Resource - Operating	5.00 %
Limited Resource - Ownership	5.00 %
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency	3.75 %

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Signup for 2013 coverage is currently underway. NAP applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed and the service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date, listed below. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. To qualify for coverage, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. 2013 NAP coverage closing dates are as follows:

August 1, 2012 - strawberries

September 1, 2012 - grass Sod, fin fish, Christmas Trees

September 30, 2012 - barley, clover, grass hay, mixed forages, rye, wheat

November 20, 2012 - apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberrries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, nectarines, onions & scallions, peaches pears, plums

December 31, 2012 - asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, greens & herbs, horseradish, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radishes

March 15, 2013 - beans, Brussel sprouts, cantaloupes, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, oats, okra, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum, soybeans, squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, yams, tomatillos, tomatoes, watermelon

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your 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, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination, write 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.