



October 2012

## NEW Acreage Reporting Deadlines

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. Acreage reporting deadlines have changed. The new acreage reporting deadlines are as follows:

<i>Crop</i>	<b>Nov. 15, 2012</b>	<b>Jan 15, 2013</b>	<b>June 15, 2013</b>	<b>July 15, 2013</b>	<b>Aug 15, 2013</b>
<b>Fall Barley, Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Wheat and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains</b>	<b>X</b>				
<b>Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Peaches</b>		<b>X</b>			
<b>Spring Forage Seeding</b>			<b>X</b>		
<b>Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Oats, Soybeans, Tomatoes and all other crops including CRP acres.</b>				<b>X</b>	
<b>Processing beans</b>					<b>X</b>

*\*Please note that wheat, barley, rye and hay must be reported by November 15, 2012.* The office is in the process of contacting producers that previously reported these crops. Please call the office as soon as possible to ensure your report is completed by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## COC Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) #2 and #3 starting on **November 5, 2012**. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the FSA office. Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the office by the close of business on **December 3, 2012**. Ballots will be counted on December 6, 2012 at 9:30 AM at the Hackettstown FSA. The following individuals have met the eligibility requirements to run for the County Committee this election period. One individual has been nominated in each LAA up for election.

**Robert DeBlock** has been nominated in Local Administrative Area #2, Warren County to serve as COC member for an additional three-year term to begin January 1, 2013. Mr. DeBlock has been farming for forty (40) years and currently produces hay, grain and livestock. Mr. DeBlock retired from dairy farming in 2006. Mr. DeBlock is an active member for the Farm Bureau and is willing to serve if reelected.

**James Smith** has been nominated in Local Administrative Area #3, Warren County to serve as COC member for an additional three-year term to begin January 1, 2013. Mr. Smith has been farming for forty-five (45) years and currently produces corn, soybeans, and hay. Mr. Smith is willing to serve on the County Committee if reelected.

### 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj)

#### County Office Staff

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

#### County Committee

Scott Ashley  
Robert DeBlock  
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:

-Oct 8 - Office Closed Columbus Day

-Nov 20 - NAP Closing Date:  
apples, apricots, blueberries, canberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, nectarines, onions & scallions, peaches, pears, plums

## 2012 Producer Payments

DCP and ACRE payments for 2012 participants will be issued **after October 1, 2012**. Annual CRP Rental payments will also be issued at this time. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts. If there are any outstanding receivables, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract the amount from October payments.

## FSA Adopting GovDelivery

The Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other 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 e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the office by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

## Emergency Farm 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;
- Reorganize the farming operation and;
- Refinance certain debts.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

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.

Partial disbursement of loan amount is available. The partial disbursement would be issued after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement would be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement is 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
- Honey
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program, please call the office.



## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



## CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

## 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.

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

## IRS Form 1099 Reporting Changes

Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, Kansas City will not generate and mail IRS Form 1099-G and/or IRS Form 1099-MISC to producers if the total of reportable payments for each tax identification number is less than \$600. However, if voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding was withheld from a payment and total payments are less than \$600, then the appropriate IRS 1099 form will be issued.

Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, Kansas City will also be issuing one IRS Form 1099-G and/or one IRS Form 1099-MISC to each multi-county producer whose total reportable payments for each tax identification number are equal to or greater than \$600. Multi-county producer IRS forms will use the producer's mailing address associated with the lowest State number and then the lowest county number within that State identified as receiving payments for the reportable calendar year.

Producers receiving less than \$600.00 in combined payments need to consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

## 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.

## Congratulations!

The office would like to congratulate Virginia Brophy on her retirement. Virginia Brophy worked for the federal government assisting farmers in obtaining low-interest loans for over thirty years. Thank you Ginny for all your hard work over the years, you will be missed!

Selected FLP Interest Rates for October 2012	
Farm Operating – Direct	1.125 %
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loans	3.00 %
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00 %
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00 %
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency	2.125 %

#### Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator 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. The following are the different methods used:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments & 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. There are additional requirements;

**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.

Requests for reconstitutions must be filed by **June 1, 2013**. For more details, please contact the office.

#### 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.