



Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for 2009 Crop Loans and LDP's:

31-Mar	Wheat, Barley, Oats, Honey, Sesame, Canola
31-May	Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates:

1-Dec	Honey
31-Jan	All annually planted crops, both spring and fall
15-Aug	Perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing, all value loss crops, and carrots

Additional Program Deadlines:

Now	Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers
Now	Emergency Conservation approved applicants -- report completed practices to FSA
30-Jan	Deadline to file Application for Payment for 2009 Livestock Forage Program (Eligible Counties ONLY)
30-Jan	Deadline to file Application for Benefits for 2009 Emergency Assistance Program for Other Livestock, Bees, and Farm-raised Fish
1-Feb	County Committees (COCs) shall submit names of COC Advisors
1-Mar	Deadline to report Fall-Seeded crops as well as Winter and early-season Spring Fruit and Vegetable Crops
1-Apr	County Committees (COCs) review Local Administrative Area (LAA) boundaries within each FSA County Office jurisdiction
1-Apr - 31-Aug	CRP Nesting Season
1-May	Deadline to report Tobacco planted acreage
1-June	Deadline to enroll into 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)
15-Jul	Deadline to report Spring and Summer-seeded planted acreage
1-Aug	Deadline for requesting the reconstitution of a farm with crop bases
1-Nov	Deadline to initiate "Successor In Interest" transfers for Tobacco Transition Buy-out contracts with approved buyers as well as initiating contract transfers between immediate family members

NOTE: If the crop being reported has NAP coverage, the final date to timely report the acreage is 15 days PRIOR to the onset of harvest or grazing. It is important for producers to remember that crops with NAP coverage will usually have a NAP crop reporting date EARLIER than the regularly established reporting dates for crops without NAP coverage.

Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:

3-Feb-10	Designation S2869 in 16 counties due to freezing temperatures
4-Feb-10	Designation M1840, Amend. 1 in 3 counties due to severe storms, flooding, tornadoes and straight-line winds
8-Feb-10	Designation S2871 in 5 counties due to storms, excessive rainfall, and flooding, followed by low temperatures, frost, and freezes
22-Mar-10	Designation S2882 in 2 counties due to severe storms with excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding and high winds
22-Mar-10	Designation S2886 in 88 counties due to excessive rainfall, flash flooding, severe wind, tornadoes and lightning
24-May-10	Designation M1858 in 13 counties due to severe storms and flooding
25-May-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 1, in 14 counties due to severe storms and flooding
25-May-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 2, in 7 counties due to severe storms and flooding
25-May-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 3, in 24 counties due to severe storms and flooding
26-May-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 4, in 16 counties due to severe storms and flooding
28-May-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 5, in 6 counties due to severe storms and flooding
1-June-10	Designation M1858, Amend. 6, in 24 counties due to severe storms and flooding
4-Aug-10	Designation S2946 in 57 counties due to severe storms and flooding
9-Aug-10	Designation S2953 in 6 counties due to excessive rain, extensive flooding and cooler than normal temperatures
23-Aug-10	Designation S2956 in 17 counties due to excessive rain, flooding and flash flooding
31-Aug-10	Designation M1870 in 4 counties due to severe storms and flooding
8-Sept-10	Designation M1870 Amend. 1 in 3 counties due to severe storms and flooding

NOTE: All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information specific to the Emergency Loan Program and to determine whether their counties are declared under a certain designation.

Farm Programs

Adjusted Gross Income and Actively Engaged (Very Important for Participants in CCC Programs)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 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 FSA and NRCS.**

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.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov> . If you chose to print the forms from the website, do the following:

- ✓ click on Browse Forms to the left of the screen
- ✓ enter agency name from dropdown as Farm Service Agency
- ✓ enter program name from dropdown as Payment Limitations
- ✓ enter form number as 927 or 928
- ✓ click on search
- ✓ on next screen click on form number, CCC-927 (Individual) or CCC-928 (Legal Entity), whichever is applicable, to pull up form.

Participants who choose not to submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 will be determined non compliant with AGI limitations for the 2009 and 2010 crop programs and fiscal years (FY's). This may require participants to repay all payments received for 2009 and 2010.

Meanwhile, beginning with the 2010 program year, USDA has amended the 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 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

USDA has implemented the following change to permit certain operations, most often family-run operations, to meet 'actively engaged' in farming requirements under less restrictive rules.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management 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 that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- the total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

2010 Crop Year Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelts LDP's and Marketing Assistant Loans

The 2010 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began on January 1, 2010, and ends on December 31, 2010. Loan rates for graded wool range from \$1 a pound to \$1.15. Beginning this year, loan rates are based on a National Loan rates than regional rates. Loans are adjusted at settlement for applicable premiums and discounts. Nongraded wool in the form of unshorn pelts is not eligible for a nonrecourse loan.

Producers are required to sign a CCC-633 EZ page 1. The form is used to indicate intentions to receive a LDP before losing beneficial interest in the commodity. However, page 4 must be filed with intent to request an LDP. The CCC-633EZ may be received by fax machine, in person, or email. For more information, contact your local FSA Office.

GRAZE-OUT Payments

Producers who plant wheat, barley, oats or triticale specifically for grazing by livestock and agree to forgo harvesting the commodity on the acreage during the applicable crop year are eligible for a GRAZE-OUT payment. GRAZE-OUT payments are authorized if the posted county price for the specific crop falls below the County Loan rate.

The application period begins on the first day of mechanical harvest. This date is determined in each specific county by the county committee. The sign up ends on March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested.

Applications may be filed any time during this period. Once the applications are filed, they may not be cancelled or withdrawn. The intended use on the acreage report must be intended as grazing. The producer must have beneficial interest in the crop through the date the crop is grazed out. Contact your local office for further questions.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (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. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. 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, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

FSA Farm Loans Available To Beginning Farmers or Ranchers

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a Farm Ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans can be financed up to the \$300,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate is set the first of each month. The rate for "limited resource producers" is set at 5.0 percent.

Farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. Terms may not exceed the useful life of security or 40 years, whichever is less.

Down Payment Farm Ownership Program

Purpose: To finance a down payment up to 45 percent of the purchase price of a farm. The Farm Service Agency financing cannot exceed 45 percent of the lesser of: the purchase price of the farm, the appraised value of the farm, or \$500,000. The maximum loan amount under this program cannot exceed \$225,000. The applicant must put down 5 percent. The remainder of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or a loan through a conventional lender. The

lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA Downpayment Loan interest rate will be the regular Direct Farm Ownership rate minus 4 percent, but in no case less than 1.5 percent.

Terms: Downpayment loans are scheduled in equal, annual installments over a period not to exceed 20 years. The non-Agency financing must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

Qualification: Applicants must either meet the definition of a "beginning farmer" or a "socially disadvantaged applicant." Beginning farmer applicants must have three years of farm experience, must have farmed for less than 10 years, and cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the median farm acreage for the county. Socially disadvantaged applicants include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.



Official Notice

of

**Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of Georgia,
Inc. (BWEF of GA, Inc.)
Annual Meeting**

To All Cotton Producers:

You are invited to attend BWEF of GA, Inc.'s 2010 Annual Meeting that will be held as follows:

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Georgia Department of Agriculture Building, Room 201

Atlanta, Georgia

1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The purpose of the meeting will be to:

Give program updates for the 2010 year.

Dated: 2/19/10

Producers are reminded when they have an address change due to 911 upgrades or relocation, to please contact your local FSA office to update your address.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that Farm Service Agency (FSA) payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

Georgia State FSA Newsletter

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the main source for information contained in this educational newsletter. Eligibility and participation for all FSA programs is determined in accordance with FSA rules and regulations. Contact your local FSA Service Center to determine program eligibility.

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Newsletter is published by the Georgia FSA State Office. Contact your local USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency listed in the phone book, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to obtain a free subscription or make address corrections.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Kula C. Moore, 706-546-2269.

For information, please first contact your local FSA County Office.