



November 2010

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County News

USDA Service Center

Atlantic/ Cape May/
Cumberland County FSA
1318 S. Main Rd.
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Vineland, NJ 08360
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Hours

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

County Committee

Anthony Melora
Florence Ale
Sue Wheeler
David T. Sheppard Jr.
Charles Muzzarelli Sr.

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of month

County Staff

Angela J. Andreoli, CED
Robert R. Maxwell, FLM
Ellen Schmidt, FLO
Lori Tobin, PT
Lorna Hofstetter, PT
Dawn Freeman, PT

November 15, 2010

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The remaining application deadlines for 2011 coverage are as follows:

11/20/2010- Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots

12/31/2010- Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips

3/15/2011- Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins,

Sorghum, Sorghum Forage, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon & Yams

5/1/2011- Nursery (**2012 coverage**)

Some of these crops are actually covered by independent crop insurance agents. This will vary by county.

The following crops are covered by independent crop insurance agents for these counties:

Atlantic County- Apples, Blueberries, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, and Soybeans

Cape May County- Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Processing Beans and Soybeans

Cumberland County- Apples, Barley, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and Wheat

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from the previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.



FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

Crop Assistance Program (CAP)

On Sept. 15, 2010, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced disaster aid would be made available to producers in specified counties whose rice, upland cotton, soybean and sweet potato production was affected by excessive moisture and related conditions that occurred in 2009. CAP will provide up to \$550 million to eligible producers.

Eligible counties are limited to those counties receiving a primary disaster designation by the secretary for the 2009 crop year due to excessive moisture or a related condition. Under CAP, these counties are referred to as disaster counties. CAP assistance is not available for contiguous counties.

To be eligible for CAP assistance, producers, including legal entities, must have an ownership share and risk in one or more eligible crops on a farm in a disaster county where the producer suffered a 5 percent or greater loss for one or more eligible crops due to an excessive moisture or related condition disaster.

Producers self-certify that they have met the loss threshold for an eligible crop; however, as a condition of their application, producers agree that they have verifiable or reliable production evidence to support the 5 percent

or greater loss claimed on the application. Producer certifications of loss are subject to spot check by FSA. Additionally, producers agree to retain evidence supporting their certifications and applications for three years after date of application.

For 2009 CAP, producers or legal entities whose average Adjusted Gross Nonfarm Income for the three taxable years of 2005, 2006, and 2007 exceeds \$500,000 are not eligible.

Eligible acres are those planted and considered planted acres of an eligible 2009 crop(s) in a disaster county certified by a producer on form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, prior to the publication of the CAP interim rule on Oct. 25, 2010.

FSA will not consider acres in late-filed acreage reports filed on or after **Monday, Oct. 25, 2010**, to be eligible acres for CAP.

CAP payments will be calculated by multiplying the producer's eligible planted or considered planted acres of a 2009 eligible crop in a disaster county by the per-acre payment rate established for that crop.

Payment rates for crops have been established based on available funds. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign up is complete they will receive up to an additional 25 percent.

The per-acre payment rates for eligible crops are:

Long grain rice - \$31.93
Medium/short grain rice - \$52.46
Upland cotton - \$17.70
Soybeans - \$15.62
Sweet potatoes- \$155.41

For CAP, no person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$100,000 per program year.

Applications will be accepted through **Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010**. Producers must apply in person at FSA county offices during regular business hours.

Voting for County Committees Begins
Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on Novem-

ber 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are: **Lori Kertz** and **Robert Ohlsen**. They have been nominated for **LAA 5** which includes: Cape May County, Maurice River, Estell Manor, Corbin City, Egg Harbor, Galloway, Egg Harbor City. (Also includes: Townships of Somers Point, Linwood, Northfield, Pleasantville, Absecon, Longport, Margate, Ventnor, Atlantic City, Brigantine & Port Republic)

Eligible voters in this local administrative area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

- an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
- a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

- CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

- CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

New Financial Management Web Page Available for Producers

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

Conservation Stewardship Program

The application deadline for NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program known as CSP has been extended to January 7, 2011. Contact NRCS for more information or visit the national website at www.nrcs.usda.gov for details.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available from FSA. This low interest loan program is available to producers of eligible commodities to help build or upgrade their on-farm commodity storage and handling facilities.



Some details area as follows:

- The maximum loan amount of 85% of the net cost of the facility, not to exceed \$500,000 per loan.
- The interest rate will be fixed for the term of the loan.
- A 15% down payment is required.
- Producers are required to carry property insurance on the storage facility and also crop insurance for the term of the loan.
- Loans over \$50,000 require additional security be taken, such as real estate, or irrevocable letter of credit.
- Eligible bushel capacity is limited to 2 years of production minus the applicant’s current available storage, (except fruit and vegetable storage facilities are limited to a 1 year of production minus the applicants available storage)
- There is a \$100 non-refundable application fee per applicant
- Eligible facilities include conventional grain bins designed for whole grain storage; oxygen limiting structures designed for whole grain wet storage and silage; concrete bunker silos; flat storage structures designed for whole grain, hay, or biomass storage; and cold storage buildings designed for fruit and vegetable storage. Permanently affixed handling and drying equipment, safety equipment (i.e. ladders), electrical equipment, concrete foundations, site preparation, materials and paid labor, are also eligible.
- Used equipment, portable dryers, scales, structures of temporary nature, or structures used for commercial purposes are not eligible
- Construction of the storage facility cannot begin until after the FSFL application has been submitted to FSA and the loan has been approved.

Dates to Remember	
November 20	NAP closing for Apples, Apricots, Blueberry, Caneberry, Cherry, Cranberry, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots
November 25	Office Closed Thanksgiving Day
December 6	Deadline to return COC ballot
December 9	Deadline for CAP applications
December 24	Office Closed Christmas Holiday
December 31	Office Closed New Year’s Holiday
December 31	NAP closing for Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj>

Please contact the office for more information.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.