



FARM SERVICE AGENCY



SEPTEMBER 2008

RHODE ISLAND COUNTY FSA

NAP DEADLINE

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Dec 1, NAP Closing Date

September 1st deadline has been extended to December 1st for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by December 1, the application closing date for 2009 **value loss crops including Christmas trees, aquaculture, sod grass, and ornamental nursery.**

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 with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Eligible Crops

To be eligible for NAP assistance, Crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available, and must be any of the following commercially produced crops:

- Crops grown for food;
- crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including but not limited to grain and forage crops, including native forage;
- crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except for trees);
- crops grown under a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture;
- specialty crops such as honey and maple sap;
- value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery and turf grass sod;
- sea oats and sea grass; and
- seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for the other eligible NAP crop production.

Coverage Period for NAP

The coverage period for NAP may vary depending on whether the producer grows annual, perennial or value-loss crops.

Applying for NAP Assistance when a Natural Disaster Strikes

When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local FSA office and complete Part B, (the Notice of Loss portion) of the application, which is form CCC-576, the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment. This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the: Natural disaster occurrence; final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster; date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

How much loss NAP covers

NAP Covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Other Important Information

In addition, producers must annually provide the following production information:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and
- Verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required).

More Information

Further information on NAP is available at your local FSA office or on FSA's Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.



2008 Crop year Buy-In for Disaster Assistance Programs

Overview

On June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) was enacted into Public Law 110-246. This Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. Those programs include:

1. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
3. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
4. Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops. Therefore, for the 2008 crop year only, producers who were eligible to obtain at least CAT level crop insurance or NAP, but did not, can “buy-in” to be eligible to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs by paying the administrative fee that would have been applicable if the producer had timely applied for CAT or NAP.

The 2008 Act allows producers to pay a “buy-in fee” at their administrative county FSA office by the deadline date of Sept. 16, 2008. **The buy-in fees do not provide any CAT crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage but do allow producers to gain eligibility to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs.**

How to “Buy-In”

All producers who wish to become eligible in 2008 for the Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs must visit their administrative county FSA office and fill out form CCC-752 and/or form CCC-753. The county offices will determine the appropriate buy-in fee required. *The deadline for the buy-in is **Sept. 16, 2008**.*

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that 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 staff 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.

2008 DCP

Direct Counter Cyclical Program

Producers have until **September 30, 2008** to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or additional information, contact your local office.

2008 New Farm Bill

Upcoming Programs

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm –Raised Fish. (ELAP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program. (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Loan Deficiency Payment (LFP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)
- Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

More programs available, please contact your local FSA office.

COC Elections

County Committee Elections

LAA-3-Ruth James has been nominated in Washington County to serve as a committee member. Ruth resides in Bradford, RI where she operates her farming operation.

LAA-5-George Goulart Jr has been nominated to serve as a county committee member. George resides and operates his Nursery operation in Little Compton, RI.

November 3, 2008-Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters.

December 1, 2008-Last day to return voted ballots in the local FSA Office.

January 1, 2009-Elected Committee members and alternates take office.

Spousal Signatures

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 county office staff by either spouse.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies, and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.



PROGRAMS AND PAYMENT LIMITS

The following programs are subject to the following payment limitation.

DCP—Direct Payment	\$40,000 per crop year
DCP—Counter-cyclical Payment	\$65,000 per crop year
Loan Deficiency Payments	\$75,000 per crop year
Market Grains	\$75,000 per crop year
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	\$50,000 per fiscal year
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	\$200,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP)	\$100,000 per crop year

Providing Information: Statutory provisions require that all entities – individuals, partnerships, joint operations, corporations, trusts, etc. - provide the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the entity’s members to the county committee. Also, entities must inform their members of the requirement for designating “permitted entities” for payment purposes. Spouses may be considered separate “persons” for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and all the applicable requirements to be determined a “person” are met.

Signature Requirements

Evidence of signature authority must be on file **BEFORE** processing any program related document that is signed by an individual on behalf of another individual or entity.

Acceptable evidence of signature authority:

- Corporate Charter Trust agreement
- Last will and testament Court orders of appointment
- Articles of partnership Bylaws
- FSA-211

When signing on behalf of a corporation, LLC, DBA or partnership the words **by** or **for** must be used;

Example: John Doe **for** JD Inc; or JD Inc **By** John Doe

If you are signing on behalf of a spouse;

Example: John Doe **for** Jane Doe, **Spouse**

SEPTEMBER 2008
RHODE ISLAND COUNTY FSA

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: 401-828-3120 Option 2
Farm Loan: Option 9
Fax: 401-821-0780

County Office Staff:

Melissa Turrisi, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Devon Marsden, PT
Leila Naylor, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Joe Marcoccio, FLO
Sandy Ford, PT
Olawale Alesh, SCEP

COC Members:

Ruth James-Chairperson
Vincent Confreda-Vice Chair
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
George Goulart-Member
James Steere-Member



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Thank you!

On behalf of the Rhode Island County office staff, I would like to thank each one of you for your cooperation during the crop reporting season this year. Also, a special thanks to the people who allowed us to set up satellite locations through out the state. It is tremendously appreciated by FSA staff and your neighboring RI producer.

Our goal in this office is to administer the programs as efficiently for you as possible, which means assessing your operations and reviewing any applicable programs we have to offer that might assist you in your farming operation.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation during this past crop reporting season. We appreciate the relationships that have been formed and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Melissa Turrisi

County Executive Director

Important
Sign-up Deadlines

- September 16, 2008- Disaster Assistance "Buy-In" Fee
- September 30, 2008- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)
- December 1, 2008- 2009 NAP Applications



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USDA - Farm Service Agency
Rhode Island County Office
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Warwick, RI 02886