

October 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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Farm Loan Chief:

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Please contact your [local FSA Office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county

Important Dates:

- **Oct. 19, 2018**
[Deadline for 2019 EQIP call NRCS today!](#)
- **Nov. 12, 2018**
FSA Offices Closed in honor of Veteran's Day

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by Nov. 1, 2018

- **Nov. 15, 2018**
Reporting deadline for fall-planted small grains, & perennial forage for 2019 crop year.
 - **Nov. 20, 2018**
NAP coverage deadline for all fruit trees, caneberries, grapes, blueberries
 - **Nov. 22, 2018**
FSA Office Closed for Thanks Giving
 - An application for payment by **Nov. 1, 2018**
- The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:
- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
 - ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
 - ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet
- To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

Cover Crop Webinar , Sunn Hemp and Sorghum Sudan

Please join NOFA-NJ and Anne Randle, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent at the University of Georgia, for a webinar on cover crops on October 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Prior registration is required in order to receive the webinar link. The webinar will include the following information followed by a Q&A period. Click here to register:

<https://nofanj.org/event/webinar-cover-crops-sunn-hemp-and-sorghum-sudan/>

Webinar Agenda

1. Introduction to cover crops
 - A brief discussion of benefits and typical crops, list of online resources
2. Selecting the right cover to meet a need
 - Not all covers are the same, overview of options
 - Importance of incorporating into a plan, not treating as an add-on
 - Intro to Midwest Cover Crops Council crop selection tool
3. Grazing potential for cover crops
 - Review of studies from around the U.S.
 - Different livestock options, grazing after different primary crops
4. Results from our work in GA
 - Sunn Hemp
 - Sorghum Sudan
 - Benefits/challenges of cropping systems
 - Benefits/challenges with pests and disease

Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for NAP. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

New Jersey Deadlines are as follows:

- Nov 20: all fruit trees, caneberries, grapes, blueberries
- Dec 1: honey
- Dec 31: spring crops - check with office!!
- Mar 15: summer/fall crops - check with office!!
- May 1: nursery (for 2020 crop year)
- Aug 1: strawberries (for 2020 crop year)
- Sept 1: aquaculture, Christmas trees, flowers, sod
- Sept 30: small grains, grasses, mixed forage, garlic

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

New Jersey No-till and Cover Crop Conference

WHEN: Thursday, December 13, 2018, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

WHERE: Hawk Pointe Golf Club, Washington, NJ

COST: \$35.00 per person

The first annual New Jersey No-till and Cover Crop Conference will be Thursday, December 13, 2018, at Hawk Pointe Golf Course in Washington, NJ. The day-long conference features nationally renowned experts in the field of no-till and cover crops and cutting-edge ideas and strategies to improve the profitability and efficiency of your farm operation. Five break-out sessions will address specific topics such as cover crop spring termination, slug mitigation, species selection and organic no-tilling. And to top it all off – the conference includes door prizes, demonstrations, great food you'll even be able to receive pesticide credits!

No-till farming (also called zero tillage or direct drilling) is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. A cover crop is a plant that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, and help control pests and diseases. Cover crops have also been shown to increase crop yields, break through a plow pan, add organic matter to the soil, improve crop diversity on farms and attract pollinators. There is an increasing body of evidence that growing cover crops increase resilience in the face of erratic and increasingly intensive rainfall, as well as under drought conditions.

The conference is designed to educate farmers and provide a space for farmers to discuss how to use no-till practices and cover crops more successfully on their farms. Jim Hersey, President of the PA No-Till Alliance, and Lucas Criswell, a farmer of over 1500 acres with over 30 years of experience using no-till and the cover crop will share their experiences and expertise. These expert farmers are getting incredible yields with fewer inputs in thanks to their dedication to soil health.

Five break-out sessions will enable more in-depth conversations about a wide range of topics including:

- Strategies for Fighting Slugs, weeds and pests
Lead by Dr. John Tooker, Associate Professor of Entomology, Penn State
- Managing Spring Cover Crop: Secrets to a Successful Termination
Lead by Eric Rosenbaum, Rose Tree Consultant
- Cover Crop Application Methods: Succeeding with Aerially Seeded Cover Crops, Interseeder, High Crop Spreader and more!
Lead by Christian Bench, North Jersey RC&D Agricultural Specialist
- Selecting the right cover crop species for your farm system
Lead by Jon Stutzman, Owner of Stutzman Crop Care
- Cover crops in organic, vegetable and perennial production systems
Lead by Dr. Galdis Zinati, Associate Research Scientist, Rodale Institute

The event is being organized by North Jersey RC&D and is expected to sell-out so be sure to get your tickets early!

Visit www.northjerseyrcd.org/conference for more information and to register.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting or those with additional questions should contact: North Jersey RC&D at 908-574-5368 or bhilhsey@northjerseyrcd.org

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

Make sure to visit our farm loan team at the **Workshop to Help Beginning Farmers Gauge Financial Readiness** to be held **Thursday October 25th 6:00 PM** in the auditorium of the New Jersey Department of Health/Agriculture building at 369 South Warren Street, Trenton. Click [here](#) to register and for additional information.

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$300,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid from Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. The application deadline for the 2018 program year is Oct. 31, 2018.

Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

Producers and handlers may submit OCCSP applications to FSA county offices or they may apply through participating State Agencies, which will be listed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index> as their agreements to administer the program are finalized.

The FSA OCCSP application form is available at [USDA's eForms site](#), by selecting "Browse forms" and entering "OCCSP" in the "title or keywords" field on the search page.

To learn more about organic certification cost share, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact a local FSA office by visiting <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for New Jersey:

- Sept 30, 2018 - Xmas trees and other value loss crops except nursery for 2019 crop year
- Nov. 15, 2018 - fall-planted small grains, fall-planted & perennial forage for 2019 crop year.
- Jan 2, 2019 - honey (honeybee colonies)
- Jan 15, 2019 - apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches, grapes, & strawberries
- May 31, 2019 - nursery for 2020 crop year
- Jun 15, 2019 - spring forage seeding
- July 15, 2019 - soybeans, corn and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, & most other crops
- Aug 15, 2019 - processing beans

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendars days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).