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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

300 Clocktower Drive Suite
202 Hamilton Square, NJ
08690

Phone: 609-587-0104
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

State Committee:

Linda A. DuBois, Chair
Kurt W. Alstede
Samuel G. Conard
Marty J. Bullock

State Executive Director:

[Barry Calogero](#)

Farm Loan Chief:

Kevin P. Murphy

Important Dates:

Dec. 25 - Offices Closed
Dec. 31 - NAP Closing date for spring crops
Jan. 1 - Offices Closed
Jan. 2 - Reporting Deadline for Honeybee hives
Jan. 15 -Final day to sign up for MFP and reporting deadline for fruit trees, bushes, vines & strawberries.

#FridaysOnTheFarm: Working Hard to Grow the Herd

From the kitchen table to the boardroom table, the USDA brings people together across the nation for: healthier food, natural resources, and people; a stronger agricultural industry; and economic growth, jobs, and innovation.

Each Friday, meet those farmers, producers, and landowners through our [#FridaysOnTheFarm](#) stories. Visit local farms, ranches, forests, and resource areas where USDA customers and partners *do right and feed everyone.*

Meet Emery Fox, a 26-year-old rancher in Checotah, Oklahoma, who, with the support and encouragement of her family, got in the cattle business two years ago.

"I had some money at the time, and we talked about different ways to invest," she said. "I thought it would be a good way to invest and provide a supplemental income. I don't get in over my head. This is all really new to me and it's a lot of learning."

Ranching Roots

Prior to purchasing her own herd of 12 Charolais-Red Angus cattle, Emery was introduced to agriculture on her grandfather's cattle operation. Her grandfather, Jack Pugh, has been a cattleman for 30 years and has been a source of constant support and advice for Emery.

"It's been a family thing for us," she said. "I run my cows on my grandpa's land. We get together on the weekend to go over what we've seen throughout the week. He's been a huge support and has really played a major role in me being able to survive and grow as much as I have."

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

She says she's been fortunate to have the support of her family and her tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The cattle business is tough, and it takes a lot of work to be successful.

Working Hard to Grow the Herd cont ...

"We've faced challenges, with not having enough hay to make it through winter, feral hogs, flies and ticks, managing land needs, and most important for me, time," said Emery.

Growing Her Operation

With so many irons in the fire, hard work and time management are key for Emery. In addition to ranching, Emery is busy earning a degree in organizational leadership at Northeastern State University and working full-time in the housing department for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She hopes to eventually buy her own land and continue working alongside her grandfather. "I love this," Emery said. "I find it so interesting to watch the cows have their calves and watching them grow up, watching the life cycle happen."

Growing Her Herd

Over the last two years, Emery has expanded her herd to 20 cows with operating loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency.

[Operating loans](#) are a valuable resource to start, maintain, expand, and strengthen a farm or ranch. For new agricultural producers, these loans provide an essential gateway into agricultural production by financing the operating costs.

"It's an easy process and a way for me to get a much better interest rate than I could have otherwise," Emery said. "If you do your research, there are plenty of programs and resources out there."

More Information

USDA offers a variety of [risk management](#), [disaster assistance](#), [loan](#), and [conservation](#) programs to help agricultural producers in the United States weather ups and downs in the market and recover from natural disasters as well as invest in improvements to their operations. Learn about additional programs.

For more information about USDA programs and services, contact your local USDA service center.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Follow the #FridaysOnTheFarm story series and other news you can use on farmers.gov and our social media channels: Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Flickr, and Facebook.

Story Credits: Janlyn Hannah, Farm Service Agency

USDA and SCORE Joining Forces to Find Mentors

If you are a farmer or rancher, or have agricultural or business experience, join us in supporting the next generation and in investing in your local community! Your experiences and knowledge as a business owner, agricultural professional, or farmer can provide vital support to the community you live in.

USDA is collaborating with SCORE – www.score.org - the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors in an effort to expand the field of available agricultural mentors and provide free business mentoring to farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural and rural business owners. SCORE is currently looking for volunteers with experience in an agriculture-related field who would like to become a part of an extended field of volunteers. The organization's Orientation and Mentoring Certification program provides volunteers with everything needed to be a successful volunteer. Training includes background about SCORE's mission and services, as well as guidance

on how to be a business mentor, including enhancement of listening, interviewing and problem-solving skills.

Current SCORE volunteer mentors have backgrounds in finance, accounting, marketing, operations, business and financial planning. The mentors provide local expertise and free one-on-one business mentoring to new and existing farmers and business owners. Together they work through the process of starting up or maintaining agricultural and rural businesses. No matter what stage a business is in, SCORE volunteer mentors can help in developing business plans, navigating financing and legal issues, identifying new markets, and other topics, in order to help their clients succeed. FSA invites you to learn more and sign up to become a mentor today at <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/mentorship>.

Storage and Handling Trucks Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) provide low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Some storage and handling trucks are eligible for the FSFL. These include:

- **Cold Storage Trucks**-A van or truck designed to carry perishable freight at specific temperatures. Cold storage trucks can be ice-cooled or equipped with any variety of mechanical refrigeration systems.
- **Flatbed Trucks**-Truck with an open body in the form of a platform with no side walls for easy loading and unloading. These trucks can be categorized into different sizes which range from light, medium, or heavy duty, compact or full-size, or short and expandable beds.
- **Grain Trucks**-A piece of farm equipment specially made to accommodate grain products and are traditionally truck chassis units with a mounted grain “dump” body where grain commodities are transported from a field to either a grain elevator or a storage bin.
- **Storage Trucks with a Chassis Unit**-Commonly referred to as a box truck, box van or straight truck, is a truck with a cargo body mounted on the same chassis with the engine and cab.

To be eligible for FSFL, the storage and handling truck must be less than 15 years old and have a maximum of four axles with a gross weight rating of 60,000 pounds or less. Pick-up trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, and simple insulated and ventilated vans are ineligible for FSFL.

FSFL for storage and handling trucks must be \$100,000 or less. FSFL-financed storage and handling trucks must be used for the purpose for which they were acquired for the entire FSFL term.

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture.

December Interest rates:

- 3 year loan – 2.875%
- 5 year loan – 3.000%
- 7 year loan – 3.125%
- 10 year loan – 3.125%
- 12 year loan – 3.125%

For more information or to apply for a FSFL, contact your local [FSA Service Center](#).

Sign in/Sign up!

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have new online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Through USDA's new streamlined process, producers doing business as an individual can now register, track and manage their applications for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) on

the secure and convenient www.farmers.gov. USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue login accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities, or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity. Producers, doing business as an individual, first need to sign up for Level 2 eAuthentication access.

- Step 1: Create and online account at eauth.usda.gov
- Step 2: Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA Service Center.
- Step 3: Contact your local USDA Service Center to have your new Level 2 account linked with your USDA customer record
- Step 4: You're enrolled and ready to log in

Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID, linked to their USDA customer record, can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy! Visit farmers.gov/sign-in to learn more.

To locate a service center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit www.farmers.gov. For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit 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:

- 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, perennial forage, 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 calendar 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).