

June 2019



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

# NEWSLETTER

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## New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

### New Jersey Farm Service Agency **Acreage Reporting Deadline July 15th**

300 Clocktower Drive  
Suite 202  
Hamilton Square,  
NJ 08690

Phone:  
609-587-0104

**State Committee:**  
Linda A. DuBois, Chair  
Kurt W. Alstede  
Samuel G. Conard  
Marty J. Bullock  
Sean Gertner

**State Executive Director:**  
[Barry Calogero](#)

**Farm Loan Chief:**  
[Kevin Murphy](#)

Visit the  
New Jersey FSA  
website for more  
information at  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/nj](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj)

#### Deadlines

**July 1** - Emergency Loan  
Deadline for several South  
Jersey Counties. Visit our state  
website or click [here](#) for  
details.

See all our regular program  
deadlines here:  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Jersey/state-events/index>

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

**Producers interested in applying for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program, MFP, to assist with tariff relief, must also timely file an acreage report.**

Remaining for the 2019 crop year:

- July 15, 2019 - all other crops, including CRP
- August 15, 2019 - processing beans

For the 2020 crop year:

- Sept. 30, 2019 – Mollusks, Christmas trees and sod
- Nov. 15, 2019 – small grains
- Jan. 2, 2020 – honey
- Jan. 16, 2020 - apples, peaches, grapes, blueberries, cranberries, and strawberries

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.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.
- 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.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your County FSA office.

### Every Season is #scamseason

Remember to discuss your USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) account information only with people you recognize and trust.

If you have questions about your FSA accounts, contact your County FSA office.

### Double-Cropping & Final Planting Dates

#### Double Cropping

Each year, state committees will review and approve or disapprove county committee recommended changes or additions to specific combinations of crops.

Double-cropping is approved when the two specific crops have the capability to be planted and carried to maturity for the intended use, as reported by the producer, on the same acreage within a crop year under normal growing conditions. The specific combination of crops recommended by the county committee must be approved by the state committee.

Double-cropping is approved in New Jersey on a county-by-county basis. Contact your office for a list of approved double-cropping combinations for your county or [click here for a complete list](#).

A crop following a cover crop terminated according to termination guidelines is approved double cropping and these combinations do not have to be approved by the state committee.

#### Final Planting Dates

All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on the final planting date for specific crops. The final planting dates vary by crop, planting period and county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific planting deadlines. The timely planting of a crop, by the final planting date, may prevent loss of program benefits.

### Nominations Open for the 2019 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a

committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2019. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Information for elections in your county office are available on the New Jersey FSA Website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj> and clicking on "Local Election Information" or by clicking [here](#).

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## Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Contact your local FSA office for a list of final planting dates by crop.

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Click [here](#) for the Crop Insurance Fact Sheet *Prevented Planting Insurance Provisions Flood*.

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## SPECIAL NOTE for Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

The following are excerpts from the Q&A portion of the USDA News Release "*Secretary Perdue Statement on Disaster and Trade-Related Assistance*". The entire release can be read [here](#).

### My fields never dried out enough to get any crop in, do I get a 2019 Market Facilitation Program payment?

- No, USDA does not have the legal authority to make MFP payments to producers for acreage that is not planted. To qualify for a 2019 MFP payment, you must have planted a 2019 MFP-eligible crop. Producers unable to plant their crop should work with their crop insurance agent to file a claim.

### I filed a prevented planting claim and I am going to plant a cover crop to prevent erosion, does that count for 2019 MFP if it's on the 2019 MFP-eligible list you announced in May?

- If you choose to plant a cover crop with the potential to be harvested, because of this year's adverse weather conditions, you may qualify for a minimal amount of 2019 MFP assistance. You must still comply with your crop insurance requirements to remain eligible for any indemnities received.

### Last year, soybeans had the highest MFP payment per bushel, should I plant soybeans this year to get the highest payment if I have the opportunity?

- You should plant what works best for your operation and what you would plant in any other year, absent any assistance from USDA. 2019 MFP assistance is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops (outlined below) in aggregate in 2019. *Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019*, and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Your total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed your total 2018 plantings.
- 2019 MFP-eligible non-specialty crops: alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.
- 2019 MFP-eligible specialty crops: tree nuts, fresh sweet cherries, cranberries, and fresh grapes.

Click here for additional USDA News Releases on the Market Facilitation Program:

- [USDA Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption](#)
- [In Case You Missed It: Secretary Perdue Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption](#)

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## USDA Announces New Decision Tool for New Dairy Margin Coverage Program

USDA announced the availability of a new [web-based tool](#) – developed in partnership with the University of Wisconsin – to help dairy producers evaluate various scenarios using different coverage levels through the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program.

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized DMC, a voluntary risk management program that offers financial protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. It replaces the program previously known as the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. Sign up for this USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) program opens on June 17.

The University of Wisconsin launched the decision support tool in cooperation with FSA and funded through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist. The tool was designed to help producers determine the level of coverage under a variety of conditions that will provide them with the strongest financial safety net. It allows farmers to simplify their coverage level selection by combining operation data and other key variables to calculate coverage needs based on price projections.

The decision tool assists producers with calculating total premiums costs and administrative fees associated with participation in DMC. It also forecasts payments that will be made during the coverage year.

For more information, access the tool at [fsa.usda.gov/dmc-tool](http://fsa.usda.gov/dmc-tool). For DMC sign up, eligibility and related program information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

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## New Earlier Sign up for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

New Jersey's State Conservationist Carrie Lindig with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging agricultural producers and forest land managers to contact their local NRCS office to plan conservation activities for their operations for next year. Applications for assistance through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), EQIP Conservation Activity Plans and EQIP Initiatives submitted to local NRCS offices by August 30, 2019, will be considered for Fiscal Year 2020 funding. "In past years, we accepted applications through October. This year, we are closing the application period in August to get contracts signed and planning underway so there is ample time for implementation in the summer of 2020."

NRCS soil conservationists are available to help New Jersey private land managers assess the natural resources on their property and suggest conservation practices that could be planned and implemented with NRCS assistance. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities. Initiatives in New Jersey include the Golden Winged Warbler Initiative in north Jersey and the National Water Quality Initiative in south Jersey. EQIP can help producers address issues such as animal waste management, efficient irrigation, erosion control, improving soil health, wildlife habitat improvement, and more by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Lindig said, "Last year NRCS provided over \$5.4 million in EQIP financial assistance to New Jersey producers. As we anticipate similar funding allocations for FY2020, we are hoping that more eligible New Jersey landowners and managers will take advantage of the opportunities available through NRCS's voluntary conservation programs."

NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers address resource concerns through conservation programs authorized by the Farm Bill. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round. Applications are processed when funding becomes available. Interested producers should visit [their local NRCS service center](#) and the NJ NRCS website ([www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov)) for more information.

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## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

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 \$600,000 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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