New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

Acreage Reporting Deadline July 15th

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.

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

Visit the New Jersey FSA website for more information at 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

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 one 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 more information at www.fsa.usda.gov/nj.

A crop following a cover crop terminated according to termination guidelines is approved double cropping.

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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 comprised 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
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 re-establish 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. Notice of loss must be filed before the end of the crop year to get the highest payment if I have the opportunity?

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 calculation that uses multipliers that vary according to a producer’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. You may not will not distort planting decisions. Your total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed your total 2018 plantings.

USDA announced the new Market Facilitation Program (MFP) for 2019.

USDA announces new decision tool for new dairy margin coverage program.

Check here for the Crop Insurance Fact Sheet Prevented Planting Insurance Provisions Flood.

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 a crop in, do I get a 2019 Market Facilitation Program payment?

Yes, 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 calculation that uses multipliers that vary according to a producer’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. You may not distort planting decisions. Your total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed your total 2018 plantings.

USDA announced the availability of a new web-based tool – developed in partnership with the University of Wisconsin – that provides producers a way to predict how different planting scenarios will fare using different coverage levels through the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program.

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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) for more information.

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. To find your local FSA office, visit http://offices.usda.gov.

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) 377-8842 (Relay voice users).