



NOVEMBER 2011

**New Castle FSA Office**

2430 Old County Road  
Newark, DE 19702

Ph: (302) 832-3100 ext.2  
Fax: (302) 834-0783

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

David Blendt  
Linda R. Brown  
H. Wallace Cook II  
SR Smith II

**State Committee**

Robert Baker—New Castle  
Dale Scuse—Kent  
Cheryl Ockels—Sussex

**State Executive Director**

Robin Talley, acting

**County Office Staff**

Rosemary Cali  
Helen Sureda

**Farm Loan Officer**

Jennifer Feindt  
(302) 856-3990 ext. 107

Regular Session County Committee meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and are open to the public.

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**FSA MOVING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION**



The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

**FSA SIGNATURE POLICY**

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office  
Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

**COUNTY COMMITTEE VOTING BEGINS**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates in this year's election are:  
**Linda R. Brown** is nominated in LAA 1, New Castle County, to serve as a committee member. Brown resides in Newark and produces corn and soybeans.

**Andrew Cleaver** is nominated in LAA 1, New Castle County, to serve as a committee member. Cleaver resides in Hockessin and produces hay and sweet and grain corn.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:  
An individual  
The authorized representative of an entity  
Both spouses when property is owned jointly  
Spouses in community property states.
2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



## **BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCES**

### **FARMERS**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years  
Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm  
Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA  
Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **CHANGING BANKS**

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The sign-up for 2010 losses began **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.

Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

### **NAP COVERAGE DEADLINES**

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

### **DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

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

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

## **2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012.

Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

Ownership changes

Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)

Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

## **RURAL YOUTH LOANS**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien

Be 10 years to 20 years of age

Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements

Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people

Be unable to get a loan from other sources

Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above

Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. the project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

## **UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS** **FSA WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVE ON HAND AT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS.**

### **2011 PROFITING FROM A FEW ACRES RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE** **December 12 & 13, 2011** **Dover Sheraton, DE**

**Delaware State University**  
Cooperative Extension *Small Farms Program*

**2011 PROFITING FROM A FEW ACRES RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

Come learn about... Alternative and niche markets, Marketing & Multi-media, Websites do's and don'ts, Profiting from season Extension, Alternative uses for unused farm buildings (chicken houses), Organic production, Enterprise budgets for your farm... Plus much more!

**Pesticide & Nutrient Management Credits will be available!**

**December 12 & 13, 2011 @8:30AM-4:30 PM**  
Held at the Dover Sheraton, DE

*To register & if you have any questions or special needs, please contact John at (302) 857-6425 or jclendaniel@desu.edu*

Cooperative Extension Education in Agriculture, 4-H and Home Economics, Delaware State University, University of Delaware and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Dr. Doyneagle B. Marsh, Dean and Administrator. It is the policy of Delaware Cooperative Extension that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national origin.

### **DELAWARE AG WEEK** **January 16-21, 2012**

#### **Delaware State Fairgrounds**

Visit the following website for information on specific sessions:

<http://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/>

There will be two sessions in which **FSA will be presenting**, see below for more details.

DDA, FSA, Farm Credit Young Farmer Loan Program

Morning, Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Evening, Thursday, January 19, 2012

Access to capital is key to any successful farming operation. Representatives from USDA, DDA, MAFC, and commercial lenders will be on hand to discuss sources for funding to buy farm land and equipment as well as finance operating costs. Topics will include:

- Delaware's new Young Farmers and Rural Irrigation Programs;
- USDA loans for beginning farmers, women, and minorities;
- MidAtlantic Farm Credit's StartRight Program for young, beginning, small, and minority farmers.

### **FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE BREAKFAST** **January 20, 2012**

**Harrington Fire Hall, Harrington, DE**  
7:15 a.m.

Registration for the breakfast is \$20

Advance registration is preferred, contact Alice Moore at (302) 831-2504 or online at

<http://ag.usdel.edu/agfriends/>

## **41ST ANNUAL DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL DINNER**

**January 26, 2012 –**

**Dover Downs Conference Center, Dover, DE**  
5:30 p.m.

For more information about tickets and/or sponsorships email: Carol Ann Wilson or

Lisa Falconetti at:

[deagindustrydinner@gmail.com](mailto:deagindustrydinner@gmail.com)

## **DELAWARE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY EXPO & PESTICIDE CONFERENCE**

**January 25 & 26, 2012**

### **Modern Maturity Center**

1121 Forest Ave, Dover, DE

Pre-registration is required!

Please contact Valann Buduschak (888) 448-1203 or visit the Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association website:

<http://dnlaonline.org/>

## **THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAM FOR PRODUCERS:**

### **Farm Marketing and Financial Management Workshop**

**January 25-January 27, 2012**

**Sheraton Dover Hotel, Dover, DE**

This 2-day workshop will teach you the skills and give you the tools you need to be successful in 2012 and beyond!

Registration is limited to first 35 registrants. For more information and/or to register contact: [Jeff A. Beal](#), Gulke Group (602) 795-5893 J or [Carl German](#), University of Delaware (302) 831-1317 or log on to:

<http://theexecutiveprogramforproducers.com>.

Sponsored in part by RMA-USDA, Gulke Group, and the University of Delaware

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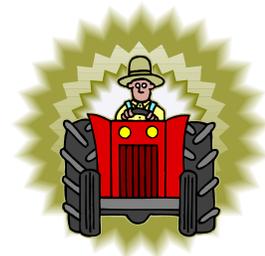
## **2012 REGIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE** **February 9 & 10, 2012**



Conference will be held at the [Dover Downs Hotel and Conference](#) Center, Dover Del.

**Pre-registration is required**

Please contact [Laurie Wolinski](#) at (302) 831-2538



**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**APPEAL PROCESS**

After a FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

**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.

**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REPORTS TO IRS**

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS in order to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments.

**HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

**PREVENTING FRAUD**

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

"The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD)