



Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for Loans and LDP's:

31-Mar	Wheat, Barley, Oats, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Sesame Seed, Rape Seed
31-May	Cotton, Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates:

1-Dec	Honey
31-Jan	All annually planted crops, both spring and fall
15-Aug	Perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing, and all value loss crops

Additional Program Deadlines:

Now	Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers
Now	Emergency Conservation approved applicants -- report completed practices to FSA
27-Jan	Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Sign-up Deadline
1-Apr - 31-Aug	CRP Nesting Season
1-Nov	Tobacco Buy Out Program Successor In Interest Contracts for 2010, as well as contract transfers between family members due to death of contract holder or moving "purchased" quota
1-Mar-09	Deadline to report "fall-seeded" small grain and any fruits and vegetables that are planted for spring harvest.
1-May-09	Deadline to report tobacco
1-Jun	Deadline to enroll into 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
15-Jul	Deadline to report spring/summer-seeded crops
1-Aug	Deadline for requesting the reconstitution of a farm with crop bases

NOTE: Producers with crops insured under NAP program should check with their local FSA office, some crops subject to an earlier reporting date.

Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:

15-Apr-09	Designation S2741 in 3 counties for hail storms
27-Apr-09	Designation M1785 Amend. 2 in 5 counties for Tropical Storm Fay
27-Apr-09	Designation M1785 Amend. 3 in 2 counties for Tropical Storm Fay
29-Apr-09	Designation M1785 Amend. 4 in 2 counties for Tropical Storm Fay
1-May-09	Designation M1785 Amend. 5 in 4 counties due to Tropical Storm Fay
15-May-09	Designation S2755 in 13 counties due to drought and excessive heat
16-Jun-09	Designation M1785 Amend 12 in 2 counties due to Tropical Storm Fay
8-Jun-09	Designation S2769 in 9 counties due to Tropical Storm Fay
29-Jun-09	Designation S2788 in 47 counties due to Tropical Storm Fay
1-Jul-09	Designation S2793 in 4 counties due to drought and excessive heat
1-Jul-09	Designation S2796 in 6 counties due to drought
12-Aug-09	Designation S2821 in 158 counties due to drought
12-Aug-09	Designation S2822 in 8 counties due to severe storm with wind and hail

NOTE: All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information specific to the Emergency Loan Program and to determine whether their counties are declared under a certain designation.

Farm Programs

In Memory of Dr. Harry Lee Kemp

Dr. Kemp died unexpectedly on Sunday, November 16, 2008, in Camilla. He had served as Interim Farm Service Agency State Executive Director from August 20, 2006, until January 6, 2007. Dr. Kemp also served on the Georgia FSA State Committee for many years and was Chairman at the time of his death.

2009 DCP Signup Reminder

Persons interested in enrolling into the 2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program, or DCP, are reminded that the contract to participate in the program must be executed in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office by everyone having an interest greater than 0 percent no later than June 1, 2009. In prior years, you could file a contract after June 1 but before September 30 if you paid a late filing fee of \$100. That provision was not included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Therefore, June 1, 2009, is the drop dead date to enroll into DCP.

SURE Program Reminders

Producers are reminded that under the SURE Program (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program), all crop acres in your farming operation and the yield from those crops must be reported to the Farm Service Agency so that a determination can be made if your operation qualifies for compensation under this program. The crop yields will be needed to determine the total farm revenue.

Producers are also reminded that if a crop in your farming operation generates less than 5 percent of the total crop revenue in your farming operation, then that crop does not have to be covered under Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) or Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) for your operation to be eligible for SURE consideration. In addition, if the normal expected revenue from a crop is less than \$9091.00, that crop does not have to be covered under NAP or FCIC to maintain SURE eligibility.

2009 Tobacco Transition Program Payments Made

The 2009 Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP) payments were issued the second week in January. If any participant (quota holder or producer) hasn't yet received their payment, they should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and inquire about this. Not all applications were processed the same day, so it could have taken longer for some payments to be received than others. Figures are not yet available for 2009; but in 2008, payments totaling \$41,370,412 were paid to Georgia participants on 7,361 contracts.

As in previous years, FSA is requesting county offices be notified upon the death of any contract holder as soon as possible to prevent erroneous

payments from being made to deceased persons. Early notification to county offices prevents estates or persons from having to refund incorrect payments; and will allow the county office to timely process a new contract for the person succeeding to the old contract.

Livestock Disaster Programs

Previous Farm Service Agency State Office newsletters mentioned two new livestock disaster programs that were authorized by the last Farm Bill. The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) will compensate eligible livestock producers that incurred grazing losses due to drought conditions as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will compensate eligible livestock producers that suffered certain livestock deaths due to eligible natural disaster events.

These programs were announced last summer; but implementation has been slow as both policy and procedure had to be developed. However, it is expected an announcement will be made shortly on how to sign up for benefits, as well as additional information on program requirements. When information does become available, producers will be notified through newspaper articles and future State Office newsletters.

Lien Search Fees

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has discontinued check writing at the local county office. Currently CCC pays for lien searches and filing fees for farm stored commodity loans. In Georgia, some Clerk of Court offices require payment prior to filing the Uniform and Security Agreement (UCC) and many of them will only accept a check. Loan proceeds could have a potential delay since the checks are mailed from Kansas City. This procedure could cause a potential loan processing delay. CCC requires the financing statement be recorded prior to the loan being disbursed.

CCC has changed the current policy to allow producers to pay filing fees. Payment type may be check, cash or money order. Payments are made to the applicable Clerks Office but given to the FSA office to file with the Security Agreement. Farm stored loan applicants must understand they are responsible for any insufficient funds for returned checks or any service fees for money orders or checks. Such fees, if paid by producer are nonrefundable.

The new procedure does not mandate that producers pay these filing fees, but gives them another option which may expedite the disbursement of their farm stored commodity loan.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)

The MILC program was reauthorized with Section 1502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The eligible MILC period begins October 1, 2007, and ends September 30, 2012. The program allows

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Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm Ownership loans or Farm Operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

FSA Farm Loans Available To Beginning Farmers or Ranchers

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a Farm Ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans can be financed up to the \$300,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate is set the first of each month. The rate for “limited resource producers” is set at 5.0 percent.

Farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Down Payment Farm Ownership Program

Purpose: To finance a down payment up to 45 percent of the purchase price of a farm. The Farm Service Agency financing cannot exceed 45 percent of the lesser of: the purchase price of the farm, the appraised value of the farm, or \$500,000. The maximum loan amount under this program cannot exceed \$225,000. The applicant must put down 5 percent. The remainder of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or a loan through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan rate will have a term of 20 years, and currently the interest rate is 1.5 percent. Other financing must be

amortized over 30 years with the interest rate negotiated by the farmer and the lender.

Qualification: Applicants must either meet the definition of a “beginning farmer” or a “socially disadvantaged applicant.” Beginning farmer applicants must have three years of farm experience, must have farmed for less than 10 years, and cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the median farm acreage for the county. Socially disadvantaged applicants include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders

Team Agriculture Georgia (TAG) is hosting a free one-day workshop for small, beginning, and limited resource farmers on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion, Martinez, GA.

Visit www.teamaggeorgia.com for more information.

Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC)

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financial assistance on a monthly basis to dairy operations. The payment is based on production sold in the commercial market when domestic prices fall below a specific level. Two sign-up periods were allowed for this program.

The initial signup began December 22, 2008-January 21, 2009. The extended signup begins on January 22, 2009, and will continue until September 30, 2012. There have been no effective payment rates for October–December 2008. Eligible dairy operations must file application CCC-580. Producers may select the dairy start month:

- Month the CCC-580 is submitted
- From the remaining months in the Fiscal Year, the CCC-580 is submitted that the rate is not known.
- Must certify Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on a CCC-926 that their non-farm average AGI does not exceed \$500,000
- Production limitation is 2,985,000 lbs for October 1, 2008-August 31, 2012
- Production limitation is 2,400,000 lbs for September 1, 2012-thereafter

If there is no payment rate in effect for the MILC production start month selected by the dairy operation, the payment will begin with the production for the month that there is a rate in effect following the selected start month.

Interested producers should contact the local FSA office where the dairy is physically located or the administrative office for the operation.

Producers are reminded when they have an address change due to 911 upgrades or relocation, to please contact your local FSA office to update your address.

2007 Census of Agriculture Released

A record number of farmers invested in their future by participating in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. They saw a return on that investment when Census results were released on February 4 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"The true value of the Census of Agriculture is in the information it provides," said Doug Kleweno, director of the NASS Georgia Field Office. "The Census charts trends in agriculture over time and provides

the only source of uniform, comprehensive data for every county in the nation." The Census, which is conducted every five years, provides facts and figures on virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, including number and types of farm operations, the economic aspects of farm production, and the demographics of U.S. farm operators.

Census results will be available online and in various publications to be issued by NASS. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov, or call (800) 727-9540.

Georgia State FSA Newsletter

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the main source for information contained in this educational newsletter. Eligibility and participation for all FSA programs is determined in accordance with FSA rules and regulations. Contact your local FSA Service Center to determine program eligibility.

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Newsletter is published by the Georgia FSA State Office. Contact your local USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency listed in the phone book, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to obtain a free subscription or make address corrections.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Kula C. Moore, 706-546-2269.

For information, please first contact your local FSA County Office.