



Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for 2010 Crop Loans and LDP's:

- 31-Jan Peanuts, Wool, Mohair
- 31-Mar Wheat, Barley, Oats, Honey, Sesame, Canola
- 31-May Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, 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, carrots, 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
- 1-Mar Deadline to report fall-seeded small grain and early season fruits and vegetables
- 14-Mar - 15 Apr CRP General Sign-up
- 1-Apr - 31-Aug CRP Nesting Season
- 1-Jun Deadline to enroll into Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
- 1-Jun The consent forms, CCC-927, "2009 and/or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual," and/or CCC-928, "2009 and/or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity," should be **mailed directly to IRS** at the address given on the form
- 15-Jul Deadline to report Spring and Summer-seeded planted acreage
- 2-27 Aug (2010) General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- 29-July Signup Ends for The 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- 1-Nov Deadline to initiate "Successor In Interest" transfers for Tobacco Transition Buy-out contracts with approved buyers as well as initiating contract transfers between immediate family members

NOTE: If the crop being reported has NAP coverage, the final date to timely report the acreage is 15 days PRIOR to the onset of harvest or grazing. It is important for producers to remember that crops with NAP coverage will usually have a NAP crop reporting date EARLIER than the regularly established reporting dates for crops without NAP coverage.

Present Emergency Loan Application Deadlines in Georgia:

- 26-Jul Designation S3062 in 159 counties due to drought and excessive heat
- 8-Aug Designation S3065 in 6 counties due to drought and excessive heat
- 17-Aug Designation S3075 in 17 counties due to drought and excessive heat
- 14-Sep Designation S3090 in 11 counties due to drought, extreme heat, and weather-related insect infestations
- 26-Sep Designation S3095 in 5 counties due to drought

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.



Director's Message



Obama Administration Names Jaclyn D. Ford to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in Georgia

The Obama Administration announced on October 27 the appointment of Jaclyn D. Ford to the Georgia Farm Service Agency State Committee. The State Committee members oversee activities of the agency, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs.

Mrs. Ford is co-owner and co-manager of Dixon Gin Company, Inc. She is actively involved in her family's farming operation and grows cotton, peanuts, corn and pecans. She also currently serves on various civic and agriculture-related boards. Mrs. Ford graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Communications. She and her husband, Jake, have two children and reside in Alapaha.

In February 2010, the Obama Administration appointed Ronald C. Lee of Dawson, Dr. Fred Harrison, Winterville; Jerome Tucker, Valdosta; and Horace B. (Pete) Waller, Bloomingdale, to the Georgia Farm Service Agency State Committee. In January 2011, the current five-member State Committee was reappointed.

"These individuals work with USDA to help farmers and ranchers build and maintain successful operations that produce the safe, nutritious food supply that America needs while spurring economic development in our nation's rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "They bring the experience and passion necessary to help continue the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America."

USDA's Farm Services Agency works to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans. Some of the agency's efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a farm. FSA also works to procure various commodities to benefit low-income families through domestic food assistance programs.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture and natural resources and touches the life of every American. Reflecting President Obama's commitment to expanding economic opportunities in rural America, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the USDA are working to enhance availability of broadband, promote the development of renewable energy, to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.



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, make address corrections, or be removed from the mailing list.

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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.

Newly Elected FSA County Committee Members to Take Office

Ballots have been counted and the newly elected COC members took office January 1, 2011. Thank you to all producers who participated in the COC election.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of minority or women producers and lack such members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations.

For More Information

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local FSA or USDA Service Center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

October - National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



In the Montgomery-Treutlen County FSA Office, County Executive Director Lesia Hogan, is shown with co-workers kicking up her heels because she is a breast cancer survivor since 2006 and a survivor of endometrial cancer since 2007. She

wears pink to honor the other women and men who have been through the same ordeal she endured. Lesia stated, "Pink to me means: I made it and nothing can stop me now!"

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Office turned pink on Wednesday, October 20, to support those who are fighting breast cancer and to get people talking about this disease. The hope

was that each employee would "turn pink," educate themselves about the multiple issues related to breast cancer, and then take that knowledge and tell others what they had learned.



The day was especially poignant with the remembrance of Jacqueline Ivey McKenzie, a Farm Loan Specialist in the Georgia State Office, who died in January 2008 from cancer. Jackie had thirty-one years of distinguished agricultural service. She married her best friend and fellow FSA employee, Claude McKenzie. Each employee also took time to remember and honor their relatives and friends that have been affected by breast cancer.

Official Notice

of

Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of Georgia, Inc. (BWEF of GA, Inc.) Annual Meeting

To All Cotton Producers:

You are invited to attend BWEF of GA, Inc.'s 2011 Annual Meeting that will be held as follows:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Ramada Conference Center
200 Valley Drive
Perry, Georgia 31069
2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The purpose of the meeting will be to: Give program updates for the 2011 year.

Please RSVP to 800-269-9926 or 229-263-9366

Dated: 2/9/11

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Farm Programs

Price Support/Conservation/Compliance/GIS ~ Clark Weaver, Chief

Certain Counties Eligible for Grazing Assistance in LFP

There are 42 Georgia counties that have been determined eligible for Livestock Forage Program (LFP) benefits on small grain that has been reported to Farm Service Agency (FSA) with the intended use of grazing. As this article is being written, only the following counties are eligible for LFP (Small Grain grazing) – Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Calhoun, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Early, Echols, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Harris, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Muscogee, Pierce, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Troup, Ware, Wayne, and Wheeler.

A county's eligibility is based solely on the drought level as shown on the U.S. Drought Monitor for Georgia. To be eligible to implement LFP, a county must be rated at least at the D-2 level for eight consecutive weeks or the D-3 level or greater for at least one week during the applicable grazing period. There are no other means of a county qualifying for LFP but by the Drought Monitor rating as shown for Georgia.

Even when a county is determined to be eligible for LFP, several other conditions must be met before a producer can be determined eligible for assistance in LFP. As stated previously, the producer must have reported small grain with an intended use of grazing to be eligible for LFP. Only small grain planted on bare ground with an intended use of grazing is eligible for LFP at this time. Small grain that is over- or inter-seeded into another permanent-type grazing such as bermuda grass, another grass type, or legume is now considered "mixed forage" and does not qualify as small grain grazing.

In addition, producers must have obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the particular small grain reported for grazing, or meet one of the three exemptions to the Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR). If the producer qualifies as either a Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged producer or a Beginning Farmer, they are not required to meet the RMPR.

Interested producers should check with their local FSA office for information on updated county eligibility, as well as other individual producer requirements.

USDA Designates 151 Counties in Georgia as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 151 counties in Georgia as natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought and excessive heat that began July 1, 2010, and continues. The counties are:

Appling	Dade	Jenkins	Schley
Atkinson	Dawson	Johnson	Screven
Bacon	De Kalb	Jones	Seminole
Baker	Decatur	Lamar	Spalding
Baldwin	Dodge	Lanier	Stephens
Banks	Dooly	Laurens	Stewart
Barrow	Dougherty	Lee	Sumter
Bartow	Douglas	Liberty	Talbot
Ben Hill	Early	Lincoln	Taliaferro
Berrien	Echols	Long	Tattnall
Bibb	Effingham	Lowndes	Taylor
Bleckley	Elbert	Lumpkin	Telfair
Brantley	Emanuel	Macon	Terrell
Brooks	Evans	Madison	Thomas
Bryan	Fannin	Marion	Tift
Bulloch	Fayette	McDuffie	Toombs
Burke	Floyd	Meriwether	Towns
Butts	Forsyth	Miller	Treutlen
Calhoun	Franklin	Mitchell	Troup
Candler	Fulton	Monroe	Turner
Carroll	Gilmer	Montgomery	Twiggs
Catoosa	Glascocok	Murray	Union
Charlton	Gordon	Muscogee	Upson
Chatham	Grady	Oconee	Walker
Chattahoochee	Gwinnett	Oglethorpe	Walton
Chattooga	Habersham	Paulding	Ware
Cherokee	Hall	Peach	Warren
Clarke	Hancock	Pickens	Washington
Clay	Haralson	Pierce	Wayne
Clinch	Harris	Pike	Webster
Cobb	Hart	Polk	Wheeler
Coffee	Heard	Pulaski	White
Colquitt	Henry	Putnam	Whitfield
Columbia	Houston	Quitman	Wilcox
Cook	Irwin	Rabun	Wilkes
Coweta	Jackson	Randolph	Wilkinson
Crawford	Jeff Davis	Richmond	Worth
Crisp	Jefferson	Rockdale	

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Georgia also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous: Camden, Clayton, Glynn, Greene, Jasper, McIntosh, Morgan, and Newton. Farmers and ranchers in contiguous counties of Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee also qualify for natural disaster assistance.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas November 26, 2010, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met.

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Farm Programs

Production Adjustment/Emergency Conservation/Common Provisions ~ Brett Martin, Chief

USDA Designates 151 Counties in Georgia as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

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Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), created in the 2008 Farm Bill, is a primary component of the domestic agriculture, energy, and environmental strategy to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil, improve domestic energy security, reduce carbon pollution, and spur rural economic development and job creation. BCAP provides incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest land owners for the establishment and cultivation of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels.

Crop producers and bioenergy producers will be able to team together to submit applications to USDA to be selected as a BCAP project area. Crop producers within these selected project areas will be eligible for reimbursements of up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing a bioenergy perennial crop. Producers can also receive up to 5 years of annual payments for herbaceous non-woody crops, and up to 15 years of annual payments for woody crops.

Assistance for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of biomass to biomass conversion facilities will be available for 2 years, per producer, in the form of a matching payment for up to \$45 per ton of the delivery cost to the facility.

Sign-up for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Opens January 10

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program began January 10, 2011. SURE

is one of five disaster programs USDA Farm Service Agency offers that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

New Financial Management Web Page

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fimi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online.
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account.
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license.

Farm Loan Programs

David Laster, Chief

Conservation Loan Program

Farmers and ranchers are reminded that the Agency will make and guarantee Conservation Loans to producers who want to promote conservation on their land as well as conserve the country's natural resources. Many farmers and ranchers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up-front" funds available to implement the practices. Producers who want to conserve natural resources and need a source of financing to implement conservation measures are encouraged to apply for credit through this program.

Producers can apply for Conservation Loans to improve or implement conservation practices on their land, as long as the practice is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Examples of conservation practices include the installation of conservation structures, establishment of forest cover, installation of water conservation measures, establishment or improvement of permanent pastures, implementation of manure management and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques, or technologies.

Direct Conservation Loans are available at your local FSA office with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed Conservation Loans with up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders who participate in FSA's guaranteed loan program. For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact the Georgia State FSA office at 706-546-2166, or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

How To Complete an FSA Direct Loan Application

Farm Service Agency (FSA) must follow all relevant federal credit, environmental, and debt collection laws and policies when making farm loans. Before applying for an FSA loan, producers should make sure their intended use of loan funds falls within FSA guidelines. Loan funds can be used by family farmers, ranchers, and others to refinance certain debts, pay normal operating and family living expenses, purchase farmland, livestock, equipment, feed, and other materials essential to farm operations. FSA loans cannot be used to refinance personal debts, buy personal vehicles, or start and operate non-farm businesses.

Applicants who need help in gathering information or completing forms should contact the local FSA office. FSA employees will help applicants understand what information is needed, where to find it or who to contact to get it. In some areas, FSA can arrange for an outside organization to help the applicant gather the information and complete the forms. Providing all the information in the following three steps will help the application process flow smoothly. Please note that other information may be required depending on each individual situation.

Step 1 – Complete Forms

Gather information and complete the following forms:

- Form FSA 2001, "Request for Direct Loan Assistance" – If the applicant is a cooperative, corporation, partnership, joint operation, trust, or limited liability company, additional information will be required of each member of the group. Producers will need to discuss their business structures with an FSA loan official. Applicants will need to provide a credit report fee, which will vary in amount depending on how many individuals are applying and/or the business structure.
- Form FSA-2002, "Three Year Financial History"
- Form FSA-2003, "Three Year Production History"
- Form FSA 2004, "Authorization to Release Information."
- Form FSA-2005, "Creditor List"
- Form FSA-2006, "Property Owned and Leased"
- Form FSA 2037, "Farm Business Plan Worksheet-Balance Sheet."
- Form FSA 2038, "Farm Business Plan Worksheet-Projected Income and Expense"
- Form FSA-2302, "Description of Farm Training and Experience."

Step 2 – Provide Additional Information

In addition to forms, a loan applicant must provide FSA with the following information as part of the loan process: (If the applicant is already an FSA borrower, this information may already be on file with FSA.)

- Proof that the applicant cannot obtain credit from private sources at reasonable rates and terms.
- Copies of federal income tax returns for the past three years.
- Copies of any leases, contracts, or agreements that might affect the operation or that might be important.
- Documentation showing compliance with regulations governing certain environmental programs. The local FSA office can assist the applicant with meeting this requirement.

Step 3 – Contact FSA

After completing the required paperwork, an applicant should contact his/her local FSA office or USDA Service Center to schedule an appointment with a farm loan official to submit the farm loan application. It is important that applicants who are having problems gathering needed information or completing forms contact FSA immediately for help.

Emergency Loans - If a producer is applying for an emergency loan based on losses in an area that has been designated an agriculture disaster, he/she should fill out the following forms:

- Form FSA 2309, "Certification of Disaster Losses."
- Form FSA 2310, "Request for Lender's Verification of Loan Application."

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Additional FSA News

USDA Introduces an Online Tool to Assist Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the Department has established an online tool that can link retiring farmers who have expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts with beginning farmers or ranchers who are interested in bringing the land into production. The new online resource, TIP Net, is a website provided by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), producers with land for sale or lease are introduced to qualified beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who want to buy or rent land for their operations.

“The interest in TIP during the first six months of implementation has far exceeded our expectations,” said Vilsack. “This tool should make TIP even more effective in facilitating the transition of land to our next generation of farmers.”

TIP provides up to two additional Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to a retired or retiring owner or operator with an expiring CRP contract. To qualify, the landowner must sell or lease the CRP land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher so the new operator can convert some or all of the land to production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods.

As of Nov. 30, TIP participation included 372 contracts on more than 52,000 acres, with nearly \$5 million obligated for TIP annual rental payments.

For beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers who cannot qualify for conventional credit, FSA offers financing as well. FSA makes direct loans and guaranteed loans made by conventional farm lenders to finance the purchase and operation of a farm. Each fiscal year, the agency targets a significant portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. In the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010, FSA made or guaranteed 18,700 loans totaling \$1.975 billion to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. In addition to the funding reserves, FSA operates a special “down payment” loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm. Like TIP, this program can help retiring farmers transfer their land to future generations.

Additional information on FSA farm loan programs is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov or from any FSA office. TIP Net can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tipnet>.

Conservation Reserve Program Celebrates 25 Years

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also announced the 25th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which has protected our nation’s natural resources since the signing of the historic Food Security Act of 1985. The act provided for the establishment of CRP and for the protection of highly erodible land.

“CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation’s natural resources through voluntary participation,” said Vilsack. “Although it was designed to address soil erosion, CRP has become one of the standouts in the USDA arsenal of conservation programs by continuing to provide significant economic and environmental benefits beyond its original intent.”

CRP was introduced at a time when soil erosion exceeded more than 3 billion tons per year, wetlands were being drained, water quality was deteriorating and wildlife populations were under stress due to the loss of habitat. CRP provided solutions to all of these problems. Since its inception, the program has helped reduce soil erosion by 622 million tons, provided natural habitats for wildlife, restored more than 2 million acres of wetlands and removed millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

CRP, which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term conservation practices on eligible farmland. To date, the total national CRP stands at 31.3 million acres enrolled in nearly 738,000 contracts.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

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.

Conservation Loan Program

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Actual Production History (APH) yields for the past five years must be established by a producer's crop insurance company and will be used to calculate losses. If APH yields are not available, three years of production history will be used.

After the loan application is submitted, FSA reviews the application and determines if the applicant is eligible for a loan. The applicant will receive written notification of each step in the process such as when the application is received, when more information is needed, and when a final decision is made on the application. If the application is approved, FSA makes the loan and the loan applicant receives the funds. If the application is denied, the applicant will be notified in writing of the specific reasons for the denial, and provided reconsideration and appeal rights.

Obtaining Forms

FSA forms can be obtained from their local FSA office or USDA Service Center or they can be downloaded and printed from FSA's Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafnp/forms%20list.htm>.

Also, many forms can be filled out and submitted via USDA's "eForms" Website located at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/>.

For information on available loan types and loan amounts, contact your local FSA office or visit FSA's Website, www.fsa.usda.gov.

CRP Signup

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general signup, CRP's continuous signup program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.