



# October 2009

## Columbus Service Center News

### Serving Burlington, Camden & Ocean Counties in NJ

**USDA**  
**Burlington/Camden &**  
**Ocean Counties in NJ**

1971 Jacksonville-  
Jobstown Road  
Columbus NJ 08022

609 267-1639 Phone  
609 261-3007 Fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
George H. Adams Sr  
Marilyn L. Russo  
Louis Parzanese  
John H. Hunter  
Ralph Wainwright

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month

**County Staff**  
Nick Morolda CED  
Robert Maxwell FLM  
Ellen Schmidt FLO  
**Program Technicians**  
Jim Mellor  
Julia Coriaty  
Craig Christo



### Final Payments for 2009 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

### Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011. Producers who had qualifying livestock deaths should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock and the dates the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following means:

- Rendering truck receipts or certificates
- Veterinary records
- Dairy herd improvement records
- Third party verification.

Third-party verification must be certified in writing. The following must be provided: name, address, telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths and the number and kinds of livestock. The third-party may not

be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired hand or family member. Producers should also document the loss by taking photos of the animal, keep veterinary records, record disposal costs and secure third-party verification.

### Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; Once beneficial incommmodity, and title to the commodity Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan, even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## **County Committee Elections**

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

## **Sale of Real Property Inventory by USDA-Farm Service Agency**

Sale by Sealed Bid, on Form FSA-2952 to be opened 10/28/09 at 2:00 PM in Columbus FSA office: Block 802, Lot 2, 821 Rancocas Road Westampton Township; 5.40 acres; zoned Residential; For details and bid package call FSA office (609) 267-1639

## **US Secretary of Agriculture Declares Natural Disaster in 15 NJ Counties**

United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack has designated Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties, among 15 in NJ, as natural disaster areas following heavy rainfall and associated plant diseases that led to crop losses during the 2009 growing season.

Governor Jon S. Corzine began the process of bringing relief to impacted farmers in early August by requesting the designation when reports began coming in that extreme weather since April was causing crop damage on farms.

The disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance through emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

The loans could cover up to 100 percent of the dollar value of the losses. Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans. Farmers must have suffered a 30 percent loss in crop production or physical loss to livestock, inventory or property and FSA's eligibility requirements. FSA considers each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Farmers are encouraged to contact their local office for details.

## **Conservation Stewardship Program**

### **Sign-up through January 14, 2010**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up is on-going, with the cutoff for the cur-

rent round of funding scheduled for January 14, 2010. CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers who have achieved a high level of stewardship on their farm or woodlot to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

CSP is available on private agricultural lands and nonindustrial private forest lands. There are two possible types of payments - an annual payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities, and a supplemental payment for participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

To apply for CSP, potential participants are encouraged to use the self-screening checklist first to determine program suitability. The checklist is available on the NRCS Web site and at NRCS field offices. Applicants who apply ahead of the deadline will have the greatest flexibility in reviewing their options with NRCS using the Conservation Measurement Tool.

For additional information about CSP please visit [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp) or call the NRCS office at 856.769.1126 ext. 3.

## **Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)**

To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. For further information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

### *Applying for Coverage*

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The application and service must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA state committee. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

### *Information Required to Remain Eligible for NAP*

To remain eligible for NAP assistance crop acreage information must be reported annually. It benefits producers to report crop acreage shortly after planting (early in the risk period) to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost. Failure to timely report acreage and production

information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region. Contact your local FSA office for your local dates.

#### *Applying for NAP Assistance When a Natural Disaster Strikes*

When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify your local FSA office and complete Part B, (the Notice of Loss portion) of the application, which is Form CCC-576, the Notice of Loss and Application for Payment. This must be completed within **15 calendar days** of the natural disaster occurrence; final planting date if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster or date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you.

#### *Amount of Production Loss to Receive a NAP Payment*

The natural disaster must have either reduced the expected unit production of the crop by more than 50 percent or prevented the producer from planting more than 35 percent of the intended crop acreage. NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grains
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops – lentils, chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (includes nuts) and vegetables – cold storage facilities

The following are some types of facilities and upgrades that are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- New conventional cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 15 years
- New Oxygen-limiting structures and other upright

silos-type structures designed for whole grain wet storage

- New flat-type structures designed for whole grain storage
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain
- Renovation of existing farm facilities
- New permanently affixed grain drying equipment
- New structures suitable for storing hay
- New cold storage buildings suitable for storing fruits and vegetables.

Please contact the local office for a complete list of eligible storage facilities

An eligible borrower is any person who is a landowner, landlord, leaseholder, tenant or sharecropper who:

- Produces and eligible facility loan commodity
- Has satisfactory credit rating as determined by CCC
- Demonstrates repayment ability
- Possesses no delinquent non-tax federal debt
- Demonstrates a storage need based on three-year average acreage
- Provides proof of crop insurance for life of the loan
- Demonstrates compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions
- Demonstrates compliance with NEPA
- Demonstrates compliance with local zoning, land use and building codes
- Has not been convicted of a controlled substance violation.

The following are some of the terms for farm storage facility loans:

- A 15 percent cash down payment is required; thus, the CCC loan is limited to 85 percent of the net cost.
- Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available, depending on the amount of the loan.
- The interest rate is based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is approved
- The maximum loan amount through FSFL is \$500,000
- Loan will not be disbursed until the facility has been erected and inspected, with the possible exception of one partial disbursement for large loan amounts.

For more information please contact your local FSA office.

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 12	Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 20	NAP and/or RMA crop insurance deadline for covering 2010 blueberries, cranberries, apples, peaches, plums
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 year	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10 year	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 year	3.750%
Commodity Loans	1.375%

### 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

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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