



November 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
Ralph Wainwright
John H. Hunter

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of Month

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



2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. 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 2010 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio

of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Acreage Reports Needed For SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are reminded that 2008 crop reports are required for SURE participation. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acreage reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, is required.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest

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- late filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.



The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These 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 at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the 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 a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. If mailed, ballots must be post-marked by midnight December 7, 2009.

The candidates in this year's election are:

George H. Adams Sr is nominated in LAA 5, Burlington County, to serve as a committee member. Adams resides and farms in LAA5. Currently he is an active member of the County Committee and serves as Chairman.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area Five 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 either of the following:
 - an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
 - a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

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.

Livestock Feed Program Maps

FSA's Livestock Feed Program (LFP) compensates eligible livestock producers for grazing losses suffered because of drought conditions that occurred from January 1, 2008, to October 1, 2011.

This program provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands.

Weekly LFP Payment Eligibility maps

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that depict the weekly LFP payment eligibility by county for the US and Puerto Rico, based on

grazing periods, drought intensity, and forage types can now be found on FSA's internet Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=lfp>.

The four most current county level LFP maps will be:

- posted in the Disaster Assistance Program section on the FSA Internet web site
- updated on a weekly basis
- provided for each year and each eligible grazing type.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to re-fund all the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Sale of Real Property Inventory By USDA-Farm Service Agency

Sale by Sealed Bid, on Form FSA-2952 to be opened 12/8/09 at 2:00 PM in Columbus FSA office: Block 802, Lot 2, 821 Rancocas Road Westampton Township; 5.40 acres; zoned Res-

idential; Minimum Bid offer is \$25,000. For details and bid package call FSA office (609) 267-1639

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Invite you to Join Us at a Public Meeting introducing new and exciting Farm Bill Programs that may benefit you and your Operation

NRCS introduces the "new" CSP, Conservation Stewardship Program * Find out how you can be rewarded for maintaining and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities * **Three components for CSP Eligibility** are: 1) Applicant Eligibility 2) Land Eligibility 3) Stewardship Threshold Requirements. **Estimated Payments** are: 1) Cropland: \$12-\$22 per acre 2) Pastureland: \$7-\$14 per acre 3) Non-Industrial Private Forestland: \$6-\$12 per acre. This Program is available Statewide and has an annual payment limitation of \$40,000. Information on CSP is available online at: www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov or at your local NRCS Field Office.

FSA will highlight some exciting new programs and initiatives for 2010 including the following: * **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)** with payments up to \$100,000. * **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)** Program-it's your revenue based alternative to the old DCP Program. * **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)**- Up to \$45/Ton incentives and more coming! * **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)** for Cold Storage Facilities, Hay Barns and Biomass Storage, and Grain Structures. For more information on programs from FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or at your local FSA office.

Public Meetings are being held around the State. Please join us at a time and location most convenient for you.

Monday, November 30, 2009, 4:00-6:00 pm

Columbus Service Center,
1971 Jacksonville Jobstown Road,
Columbus NJ 08022 Tel.(609) 267-1639, Ext 3

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 4:00-6:00 pm

Freehold Service Center
4000 Kozloski Road, Suite D, PO Box 5033,
Freehold NJ 07728 Tel. (732) 462-0075, Ext 3

USDA-Farm Service Agency
 1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd
 Columbus NJ 08022



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Dates to Remember	
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Wednesday, December 2, 2009; 4:00-6:00 pm
 Woodstown Service Center,
 51 Cheney Road, Suite 2
 Woodstown NJ 08909 Tel. (856) 769-1126, Ext 3

Thursday, December 3, 2009; 4:00-6:00 pm
 Frenchtown Service Center
 687 Pittstown Road, Suite 2
 Frenchtown NJ 08825; Tel. (908) 782-4614, Ext 3

Thursday, December 10, 2009; 7:00-9:00 pm
 Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource
 Education Center
 605 Pequest Road
 Oxford NJ 07863
*The meeting at Pequest Hatchery is hosted by the
 Hackettstown Service Center. Call them at
 (908) 852-2576, Ext. 3, for information about
 the meeting at this location*

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Be- ginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility 7-year	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility 10-year	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility 12-year	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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