



September 2010

Columbus Service Center News

Serving Burlington, Camden & Ocean Counties in NJ

USDA
Burlington/Camden
Ocean Counties in NJ

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

County Committee(COC)
George H. Adams Sr
Marilyn L Russo
Louis Parzanese
John H Hunter
Ralph W Wainwright

COC meets:
2nd Tuesday of Month

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



September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. 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.

ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those producers who suffered losses in 2009 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions.

More than \$13 million in disaster assistance, including more than \$7 million to compensate beekeepers for 2009 losses, will be issued. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Conservation Loan Program (CL) New – On – The – Way

FSA is in the process of rolling out a new Conservation Loan (CL) Program. The regulations and fact sheets should be available very soon, however FSA cannot take applications yet.

The specifications for the CL program will include:

This is a Direct and Guarantee Loan Program for approved conservation practices *exclusively*.

Work in tandem with Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS). Costs of conservation practices on an Approved Conservation plan can be funded.

Priorities for the CL program will be organic transition and Sustainable Agriculture and usually will be something in conjunction with EQIP and CREP. However any conservation practice included in NRCS approved conservation plans should be eligible.

Look for more information once regulations are rolled out. Contact your local FSA or NRCS office for more details in the near future.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for Hay and Rye coverage crops] is 9/30/2010.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your FSA office.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable and an agricultural commodity 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 noninsurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office.

The application and service fees 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 bycrop 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.

Actual production History (APH)

Producers should report production each year for NAP covered crops. Maintaining your APH each year will provide the greatest NAP benefit. Production can be reported either with production receipts or by certifying your production before the final crop reporting date of the following year.

SAFE Conservation Projects

Enrollment in New Jersey State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) continues. SAFE is a component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), tailored to specific watershed areas.

SAFE practices serve to restore wildlife habitat by establishing small blocks of grassland (10-40 acres) and enhancing existing

habitats. Certain wildlife species are in decline, and SAFE habitats are designed to help revitalize these populations.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10 to 15-year contracts. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

In addition to the annual rental payment and cost-share, SAFE may offer participants an up front one-time CRP Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per each SIP-eligible acre and a Practice Incentive Payment when cost share is made.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

TAAF Sign-up Ends Sept 23 for Asparagus, Catfish and Shrimp

Sign-up for the 2009 asparagus, 2009 catfish, and 2008 shrimp Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) Program will end September 23, 2010. The program provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible producers of raw agricultural commodities and fishermen who have been hurt by import competition.

Catfish and asparagus have been certified nationally and shrimp has been approved for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. FSA Form 229-1 and other needed documentation must be submitted by the closing date. Late applications will not be approved. Contact your FSA office for details.

Assistance for Asparagus and Catfish Producers

Asparagus, catfish and shrimp producers and those who shared in the risk of production for those agricultural products in 2009 may now be eligible for assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The deadline for application is September 23, 2010. As authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, the TAA Program offers free technical training and compensation for producers of those crops now affected by foreign competition. TAA provides up to \$4,000 for development of an initial business plan and \$8,000 for development of a long-term business adjustment plan. Producers must provide proof of production in 2009 and one year prior and are subject to AGI eligibility limits. Contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010		Dates to Remember	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	May 10	Tree Assistance Signup Opened
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%	May 17	Transition Incentive Program Signup Opened
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%		
Limited Resource	5.00%		
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%	Sept. 15	Signup for Durum Wheat Quality Program Ends
Emergency	3.75%	Sept. 23	TAAF Signup Ends for Asparagus, Catfish, Shrimp
Farm Storage Facility – 7 Yr-2.25% 10 Yr	2.875%	Sept 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Farm Storage Facility - 12 Yr	3.125%	Sept 30	SURE Application Deadline
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%	Sept 30	2011 NAP deadline for Hay & Rye Coverage

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