

		<h1>DECEMBER 2010</h1>				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 County Committee election ballots due into office	7	8	9 Crop Assistance Program (CAP) Application Deadline	10	11
12	13 County Committee Election Ballot Counting, 9:00am	14	15	16 FSA All Employee Meeting; Limited Office Coverage After 9:30 am	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30 NRCS Sign-up Deadline: -Conservation Activity Plans (for EQIP) -Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)	31 Office Closed NAP Deadline extended until January 3rd	

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Drought and Excessive Heat Lead to Natural Disaster Determination for New Jersey Counties

On November 22, 2010, Secretary Thomas Vilsack approved a Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination for 16 New Jersey Counties, including Burlington, Ocean and Camden Counties. The determination makes funding available through the Emergency Loan Program.

Loan purposes include operating and real estate, restoring/replacing essential property, production costs for disaster year, essential family living expenses, reorganization and refinancing certain debts.

The maximum indebtedness under the Emergency Loan program is \$500,000. The December interest rate has been set at 3.75%. Contact our office for additional details.

The disaster determination will also make local producers eligible for the 2010 SURE Program when it is rolled out.

DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1st on owned farm. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), please contact FSA.

FSA Announces Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) for 2011

FSA is happy to announce that the sign up for 2011 GRP is open. The sign up period will close January 28th 2011

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland.

Eligible applicants include:

- Landowners and operators who have general control of the acreage (for rental contracts);

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FSA Office Burlington Camden Ocean Counties

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Columbus NJ 08022

Phone: 609-267-1639
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www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
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
Jim Mellor PT
Craig Christo PT
Julia Coriaty PT





December 31* NAP Deadline

The NAP deadline is for the following crops.

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Greens
- Herbs
- Horseradish
- Kohlrabi
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Parsnip
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Radish

****Since the office will be closed on December 31st, NAP applications can be submitted until the following work day which is January 3rd.***

**FSA EMPLOYEES
MEETING
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 16th 2010;
there will be limited
office coverage
after 9:30 am.**

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Rural Youth Loans

loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor,

produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's average size.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time

of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. 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.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Selected Interest Rates for December 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.0-3.0%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Grassland Reserve Program

(Continued from Page 1)

- Landowners who can provide clear title on privately owned lands (for easements).
- Tribes

Eligible land includes privately owned or Tribal grasslands; land that contains forbs for which grazing is the predominant use; or land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubland that has the potential to serve as wildlife habitat of significant ecological value.

Cooperating Entity Eligibility

A unit of State, local, or Tribal government or a non-governmental organization that can demonstrate

the following conditions may enroll eligible land under a cooperative agreement through an NRCS State office:

- A commitment to grazing land conservation;
- Capability to acquire, manage, and enforce GRP easements;
- Sufficient staff to monitor easement stewardship; and
- Availability of matching funds.

Applications may be filed for a rental contract or an easement with NRCS or FSA. Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. Participants may conduct fire rehabilitation and construct firebreaks and fences. A grazing management plan is required.

Applicants may choose between a rental contract of 10-, 15- or 20-years, or a permanent easement. Rental contract holders receive an annual payment (the “rental payment”) and 50% of the cost of any restoration practices. Applicants who agree to sell a conservation easement retain the grazing rights, and receive as compensation for the easement up to 80% of the appraised value less the grassland value.

GRP can cost-share for the following practices:

- Fencing for rotational grazing systems
- Watering Facilities for livestock
- Pipeline for a watering facility
- Pasture and Hayland Planting
- Conservation Cover
- Grazing land mechanical treatment
- Herbaceous Plant Management
- Brush Management
- Animal walkways to pastures including stream crossings
- Prescribed grazing, Access Control (fencing of riparian areas)
- Habitat Management

Conservation Corner

The Agricultural Management Assistance

program (AMA) is a voluntary program that specifically targets beginning and limited resource farmers, small farms, and producers who have had limited participation in other USDA financial assistance programs.

Individual practice payment rates are calculated at between 50% and 75% of the typical cost of implementing the practice in New Jersey. If the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer, the rates are 25% higher, up to a maximum of 90%.

Producers may contribute to the cost of a practice through in-kind sources, including personal or donated labor and use of personal equipment, as long as the value of the contribution is documented.

Cost-shared practices include:

- Irrigation systems
- Cover crop
- Pest management
- Nutrient management
- Buffers and waterways

Specific eligibility criteria apply, please call NRCS for Details.

The sign-up deadline for 2011 AMA funding is December 30th, 2010.