



Heavy rains caused severe erosion under the fabric at this Ocean County Nursery

Signup for Emergency Conservation Program Ends December 30, 2011

Signup began for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) on November 1, 2011 and will continue for 60 days, ending December 30, 2011. ECP offers up to 75% cost-share to rehabilitate crop fields for physical damage due to natural disaster.

ECP is currently available in Burlington, Camden, and Ocean Counties (as well as others) for producers that have suffered physical damage due to the heavy rains and strong winds that started at the beginning of August and peaked when Hurricane Irene hit New Jersey September 2nd.

While funding for ECP is **not** yet available we encourage all producers that suffered physical damage to report it to the county office in case funding becomes available.

The Columbus Service Center will be holding an informational session On **Wednesday, November 16th at 9:00am** for those interested in signing up for ECP. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending. *(Additional details on Page 3)*

County Committee Voting Begins



Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates for County Committee in this year's election are Michael Russo and Tim Haines are in LAA 1, and Ralph Wainwright in LAA 2.

Eligible voters in local administrative areas 1 and 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

LAA 1 consists of Bordentown, Chesterfield, North Hanover, New Hanover, and Pemberton Townships.

LAA 2 consists of Burlington, Florence, Mansfield and Springfield Townships.

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FSA Office Burlington Camden Ocean Counties

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Phone: 609-267-1639
FAX: 609-261-3007

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
Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

County Staff

Nick Morolda CED
Robert Maxwell FLM
Jim Mellor PT
Craig Christo PT
Julia Coriaty PT





Crop Coverage Application Deadlines

November 20th

NAP

- Cane berries
- Grapes
- Onions
- Plums
- Shallots
- Scallions

Crop Insurance

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cranberries
- Peaches

December 31

NAP

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



December 30, 2011 is the deadline for NRCS's AMA, WHIP and EQIP CAP and Forestry Programs. Contact NRCS for details.

2010 SURE to Open November 14th

Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will begin November 14, 2011.

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss means at least a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Producers outside a declared disaster county, but with production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm), also qualify for SURE.

To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops and/or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

Note: Eligible producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged," "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer," do not have to meet this requirement.

Information Needed to apply for SURE:

- Acreage and production records, if not already provided for the crop insurance program or for NAP;
- Information to establish eligible producer status on the farm;

Our service center will hold a SURE info session on November 17th at 9:00 am at the service center. Please contact the office if you plan to attend.

Additional information can at our office or at www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Contracts must be enrolled by June 1st. There are no late filing provisions for this program. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes
 - Change in crop shares arrangements.

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

In past years producers could receive 22% of their direct payment as an advance. Starting with 2012 DCP participants will receive 100% of their direct payment in October with no advances available.

Producers who participate in DCP may plant cropland in excess of the total base acreage on the farm to any commodity. However, producers are subject to certain restrictions on the planting of wild rice, fruits, and vegetables

The 2008 Farm Bill continues the direct payments that began under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

For each commodity, the total direct payment for the 2012 crop year for producers on a farm is determined by multiplying 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times the farm's direct payment yield times the direct payment rate.

Fruits and vegetables (FAV) may be planted on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE and be considered an authorized planting when 1 of the following exceptions applies:

- FAV is double-cropped with a covered commodity in an established FAV double-cropping region.
- farm has history of planting FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm.
- producer has history of planting a specific FAV, and an acre-for-acre reduction is applied to the farm.

All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509 by June 1 of the contract period. The following documents are required:

- a farm operating plan; an average adjusted gross income certification;
- a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
- A certificated report of the acreage of all cropland on the farm is needed before final payments can be issued.



E-Newsletter: In an effort to save money Farm Service Agency will be moving to an E-Newsletter in the future. If you would like to receive our Newsletter via email, please provide our office with your email address. Newsletters are currently available on the State FSA Website.

Emergency Conservation Program

ECP provides emergency funding to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind and water erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and during periods of severe drought providing emergency water for livestock and existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards.

The natural disaster must create new conservation problems, which, if not treated, would:

- Impair or endanger the land;
- Materially affect the productive capacity of the land;
- Represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- Be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Emergency practices include:

- Removing debris from farmland;
- Grading, shaping, re-leveling,
- Restoring permanent fences;
- Restoring conservation structures and other installations;

Producers **must** contact the county office in person, or by phone, to request ECP cost share **before** starting a practice. Producers who start a practice before requesting ECP funding may be ineligible to receive cost share.

County Committee Voting

(Continued from Page 1.)

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 any of the following:
 - An individual
 - The authorized representative of an entity
 - Both spouses when property is owned jointly
 - Spouses in community property states.
2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

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

Selected Interest Rates for November 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.75%
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	1.500-2.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Adjusted Gross Income Changes

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments.

In the past, participants in FSA and NRCS programs would fill out an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification form CCC-926 and submit it to their local office. They would then also be required to complete form CCC-927 in the case of individuals and CCC-928 for legal entities and mail them to the IRS for verification.

This process has now been streamlined and requires participants to now complete just one form, the CCC-931, which will be submitted to their local office and does not require the participant to mail an additional form to the IRS.

Any participant in 2009-2011 programs who completed a CCC-926 form but did not mail the corresponding CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 to the IRS by September 12th 2011 will be required to submit a CCC-931. In addition, any future participants in programs for years 2009-2012 will also be required to complete a CCC-931.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.

Pigford – Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547.

Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506



NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 County committee ballots mailed to voters	5
6	7	8	9	10	11  Veteran's Day Offices Closed	12
13	14	15	16 9:00 AM Emergency Conservation Program Info Session	17 9:00 AM 2010 SURE Info Session	18	19
20 <u>Crop Insurance Deadline</u> Apples, Peaches, Blueberries, Cranberries	21 <u>NAP Deadline</u> Apricots, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Scallions, Pears, Plums	22	23	24  Thanksgiving Offices Closed	25	26
27	28	29	30	<u>December 5th</u> County Committee Election ballots due into office	<u>December 12th</u> County Committee Election Ballot Counting, 9:00am	<u>December 30th</u> Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Application Deadline



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."