



**ATTENTION!**  
**November 15, 2012**  
 is the new deadline for  
 reporting small grains & forages  
 for the 2013 crop year

### New Crop Reporting Dates for 2012 and Subsequent Years

New dates for reporting crop acreage have been released, resulting from an effort to streamline the business process between FSA and RMA. The purpose of this realignment of reporting dates is to provide a more uniform, familiar, and convenient reporting process for producers who are insured with RMA and are also FSA customers.

Initially, the **new dates** will begin with July 1, 2012 for the 2012 and subsequent crop years. The November 15 reporting date would be applicable for identified crops for the 2013 crop reporting period. Producers are encouraged to report their crops on or before the new crop reporting deadlines listed

### Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses runs through **June 1, 2012**

To be eligible, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops of economic significance and/or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency.

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

below. Crops planted after the deadline may still be reported within 15 days of planting.

**January 15** - Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Peaches

**June 15** - Spring Forage Seeding

**July 15** - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Oats, Potatoes, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and all other crops

**August 15** - Processing Beans

**November 15** - Fall Barley, Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains

In addition, a producer must have a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Eligibility does not guarantee that a payment will be generated.

Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

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.

### FSA Office Burlington Camden Ocean Counties

1971 Jacksonville  
 Jobstown Road  
 Columbus NJ 08022

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

[www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NJ)

#### Hours

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

**County Committee**  
 George H. Adams Sr.  
 Michael 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



## 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.

## USDA Minority Farm Register

The USDA has instituted a voluntary register (AD-2035) in an effort promote equitable access to USDA farm programs for minority farmers and owners.

Participants may receive information or personal contact through USDA outreach efforts. USDA programs may include farm or ranch ownership and operating loans and loan guarantees, price and income support, conservation, and others. Contact the office for more information.

## Preventing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## Payment Limitation

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income and less than \$1,000,000 average AGI from farm and non-farm income combined in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

For conservation programs eligibility, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations.

**NOTE:** FSA now verifies average AGI certifications with the IRS.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes,

rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for some payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Payments and benefits under certain FSA programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule
- average AGI limitations

No program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:

- all required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations are made
- after 2009, a farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office
- if any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average AGI determination, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as applicable.

*Failure to timely notify the County Office may adversely affect payment eligibility.*

**June 1, 2012 is the deadline for NRCS's EQIP; Energy, Organic, and High Tunnel Initiatives.**

## Farm Storage Facility Loan



### ***Borrow up to \$500,000 for Hay, Grain and Temperature Controlled Storage***

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.

Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, hay, renewable biomass, fruits and vegetables

Participants are 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 are different and based on the rate which CCC borrows from Treasury Department.

**Note:** An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

## **NAP Participants Must Report Losses Within 15 Days.**

Producers with NAP coverage that suffered crop losses should report those losses as soon as possible. A Notice of Loss (NOL) is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop.

Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a NOL within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and NOL must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

To be eligible, NAP coverage must have been purchased by the applicable sales closing date and crop acreage must have

been reported and certified prior to filing a notice of loss.

## **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## **Acreage Reporting for 2012**

Most Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs require an acreage report to be filed in order to participate. Crop Insurance Programs require acreage reports in order to verify a crop's existence, or to establish Actual Production Histories. Conservation Programs use acreage reports to determine cropping history on specific tracts of land to establish practice eligibility. Other programs use acreage totals to establish expected crop yields or to determine your own actual yields.

In order to have a complete acreage report on file, the following information is needed for each crop and field that you have planted.

### Accuracy Counts!

- Crop, Type & Intended Use (ex: Watermelon, Seedless, Fresh)
- Field location and boundaries
- Crop Acreage
- Planting Date
- Available Irrigation

### **Selected Interest Rates for April 2012**

<b>90-Day Treasury Bill</b>	<b>0.125%</b>
<b>Farm Operating Loans - Direct</b>	<b>1.25%</b>
<b>Farm Ownership Loans - Direct</b>	<b>3.3750%</b>
<b>Limited Resource Loans</b>	<b>5.00%</b>
<b>Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher</b>	<b>1.50%</b>
<b>Emergency Loans</b>	<b>3.75%</b>
<b>Farm Storage Facility Loans</b>	<b>1.5%-2.375%</b>
<b>Commodity Loans 1996-Present</b>	<b>1.125%</b>

## **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 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

## **Power of Attorney**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact the office.

## **DCP /ACRE Sign Up**

Signup for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) ends June 1, 2012.

**NOTE:** The addition of new landowners to the farm as a result of reconstitutions/ownership changes will require the new landowner's signature or other documents signed by the landowner. In this instance a CCC-510 may not be used to certify control of the new land as the change occurred since the previous fiscal year.



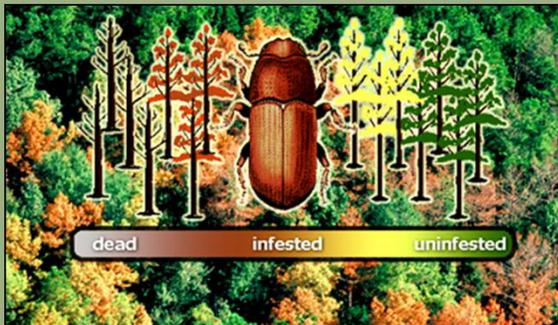
The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) assists eligible forest owners with damage caused by Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestation.

While only half the size of a grain of rice, the SPB has killed over 20,000 acres of pine forest in New Jersey since 2009.

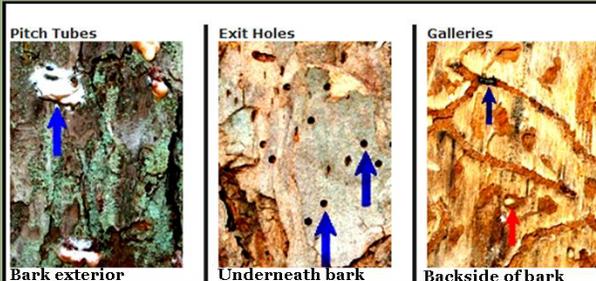
EFRP will pay up to 75% of your eligible costs to restore forests damaged by SPB, including practices to reduce the risk of serious forest fire, by addressing the dead material resulting from infestation. Such practices may include:

- Tree removal
- Planting of seedlings
- Prescribed burning, and
- The creation of fire breaks.

## A BEETLES INVASION OF ANOTHER KIND



### Signs of beetle infestation



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Initial\* Sign Up Ends

## April 20, 2012

This program is currently being offered in Burlington, Camden and Ocean Counties only.

If you have any questions or wish to apply please contact our Columbus Service Center at **609-267-1639**

Columbus FSA Office  
1971 Jacksonville Jobstown Road  
Columbus NJ, 08022

\* Initial Sign up may be extended, contact the office for details.

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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."