

May 2013



## COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

For more information contact your local FSA office. .

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### Name County FSA Office **Crop Reporting**

1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown  
Road Columbus, NJ 08022

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster

Phone: 609 267-1639

Assistance Program). Following are the new acreage reporting dates:

Fax: 609 261-3007

**November 15**

**County Executive Director:**  
Nick Morolda

Fall Barley

Perennial Forage (existing hay),

**Program Technicians:**  
Jim Mellor

Fall Forage Seeding (new hay)

Craig Christo

Fall Wheat

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Matt Pavone

all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains

**January 15**

Apples

Blueberries

Cranberries

Peaches

**June 15**

Spring Forage Seeding

**July 15**

Corn

Sweet Corn

Grain Sorghum Oats

Potatoes

Soybeans

Tomatoes

and all  
other crops

**August 15**

Processing Beans

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

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## **USDA Finalizes New Microloan Program**

Microloans up to \$35,000 aim to assist small farmers, veterans, and

disadvantaged producers. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new microloan program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designed to help small and family operations, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers secure loans under \$35,000.

The new microloan program is aimed at bolstering the progress of producers through their start-up years by providing needed resources and helping to increase equity so that farmers may eventually graduate to commercial credit and expand their operations. The microloan program will also provide a less burdensome, more simplified application process in comparison to traditional farm loans.

Producers can apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As their financing needs increase, applicants can apply for an operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

USDA farm loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or be to construct buildings or make farm improvements. Small farmers often rely on credit cards or personal loans, which carry high interest rates and have less flexible payment schedules, to finance their operations. Expanding access to credit, USDA's microloan will provide a simple and flexible loan process for small operations.

Producers interested in applying for a microloan may contact their local [Farm Service Agency office](#).

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## Programs for damage from Hurricane Sandy

Hamilton Square, NJ - April 24, 2013 - New Jersey State Executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency, Paul J. Hlubik announced today that agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners affected by the historic hurricane also known as Superstorm Sandy here in the Garden State may be eligible for a portion of the \$15 million in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds and \$23 million in Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) funds that were announced by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on Monday.

Qualifications for those funds are based on the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Funding for these programs is provided under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, signed by President Obama on January 29.

Producers and landowners having Superstorm Sandy damaged farmland or nonindustrial private forest have until May 31 to file applications for assistance at their local FSA county office.

Hlubik noted that while several FSA county offices had been accepting applications since the storm occurred, this announcement is made to increase awareness about the opportunity since funds are now available. He went on to add that this announcement also extends the sign-up for both programs to all potentially eligible landowners in all New Jersey Counties.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and;
- Materially affect future use of the land.

To restore NIPF, EFRP program participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures:

- Necessary to repair damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land and;
- Restore forest health and forest related resources on the land.

ECP and EFRP participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency practices. Qualified limited-resource producers may receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved ECP practices. This particular funding for ECP and EFRP is limited to counties named in Presidential Disaster Declarations due to Superstorm Sandy. For further information on eligibility requirements and applications, producers may visit a local FSA county office or the FSA website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

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## 2011 SURE sign-up continues

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up for SURE disaster assistance for crop year 2011 must do so before the **June 7, 2013** deadline. The SURE program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

To be eligible for SURE certain criteria need to be met, including:

At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance

A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops.

For more information on the 2011 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

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## NAP REMINDERS

NAP is a program, similar to CAT insurance, for crops not covered by other insurance. It is not designed to make a producer financially whole. It will pay benefits when losses exceed 50% of the actual production history (APH), and at 55% of the county price. It will pay benefits when prevented planted acreage is 35% or greater of to be planted acreage.

Crops must be reported before loss adjuster can review the loss on reported fields. Report production from the previous crop year by July 15 of the next crop year. This is important for updating your APH.

Contact the office within 5 days of harvest to have the loss adjuster perform a Post Harvest Inspection (Final) on all crops in the pay group after harvest is completed.

Notice of Loss must be reported within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent to the producer. Loss adjuster must have the opportunity to examine the weather related damage. An inspection/appraisal is required if the crop is not going to be harvested. Loss adjuster must inspect all crops in the pay group, even if there is not a loss.

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