



Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County News

USDA Service Center

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County FSA

1317 S. Main Rd Bldg. 3
Vineland, NJ 08360
856-205-1225 (phone)
856-205-0691(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

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

County Committee

Rita Muzzarelli
Anthony Melora
Florence Ale
Sue Wheeler
David Sheppard Jr.

County Committee meets:
2nd Wednesday of Month

Staff

Angela J. Andreoli, CED
Robert R. Maxwell, FLM
Toni Brooks, FLO
Ellen Schmidt, FLO
Lori Tobin, PT
Kathy Visconti, PT
Lorna Hofstetter, PT
Ashlea Visconti, FLOT



February 10, 2009

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program and can be accessed at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Eligible producers for the DCP Program are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Deadline

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup period for years 2005-2007,

will end Feb. 27, 2009.

The ending date of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Sign-up information and required forms are available at each county FSA office. Late filed applications will not be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Payment Limits & Direct Attribution

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the 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 in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. 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. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

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 specified 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. For more detailed information contact your local FSA office.

Kansas City mails 1099-G

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances,

borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2008 production records as soon as harvest is complete. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date, which is July 15th.***

NAP Coverage Deadline

Producers in need of insurance coverage for crops not covered by federal crop insurance (FCIC) can enroll in FSA's Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP). NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, turf grass and forage crops, just to name a few.

NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$750 cap per county. Out-of-pocket expenses will not exceed \$1875 for any producer, even if production occurs in more than three counties. Service fees may be waived for eli-

gible limited resource producers.

NAP applications for coverage must be filed and service fees paid, by the applicable closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: 856-205-1225 Ext. 2.



The next NAP closing date is March 15, 2009 for the following crops: **Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, and Watermelon.**

More information on NAP and additional disaster assistance programs is available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

In preparing for the upcoming season here are a few reminders if you participate in NAP.

- An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The annual gross revenue of the eligible producer, and any individual or entity combined as one "person" with the eligible producer, cannot exceed \$2 million.
- To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available, and must be any of the following commercially produced crops:
 - *crops grown for food;*
 - *crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including, but not limited to, grain and forage crops, including native forage;*
 - *crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except for trees);*
 - *crops grown under a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture;*
 - *specialty crops, such as honey and maple sap;*
 - *value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental*

nursery and turf grass sod;

- *sea oats and sea grass; and*
- *seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for other eligible NAP crop production.*
- A complete crop report of all acres, crops and plantings must be reported to the county FSA office by the final reporting deadline.
- Late filed crop reports will be accepted with a minimum \$46 per farm fee.
- Previous year's production from all sources is required to be filed each year to establish your Actual Production History (APH). Failure to do so will result in a reduction of benefits.
- When weather related loss occurs, you must file a CCC-576 "Notice of Loss" in the county office **within 15 Calendar days** from when damage to the crop is apparent. A telephone call reporting the loss is not sufficient to cover the above requirement. The above mentioned form must be completed, signed and in the county office within the 15 days.
- There must be a 50% loss on the entire crop, not just a field.
- Crops with losses should not be destroyed until additional instructions are received from the FSA office.
- The Operation must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Provisions.
- No NAP payment will be issued to any "person" who has qualifying gross revenue in excess of \$2 million for the most recent tax year preceding the year for which assistance is requested.
- Appraisal can be completed, for a fee, in order for those that can not provide reliable or verifiable production records. Appraisals are good to use if you have a farm market or a "you pick it" operation where actual production records are not kept.

Please call the office you have any questions on this program.



Direct Deposit Mandatory

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 16th	Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
March 15	NAP deadline for the following crops: Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Sorghum forage, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon, and Yams.
May 31	Reporting deadline for Small grains
July 15	Reporting deadline for all crops except small grains
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj>

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