



## 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)

#### Hours

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

#### County Committee

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

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month

#### County 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



April 1, 2009

### The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office.

### Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster. If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The

maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.

- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

### Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

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.



Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acres reports are to be certified by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline on small grains and a July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline on all other crops.

Acres reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31<sup>st</sup> for small grains and July 15<sup>th</sup> for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

### 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 acres information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acres on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acres reporting date, which in most cases is July 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acres 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 INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acres report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

### Public Comment on Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf

of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), will hold two public meetings to solicit comments on the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program.

Each comment received will be considered in the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for FSFL. The purpose of the PEA is to aid USDA decision-makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental benefits and potential impacts associated with implementing various changes to FSFL consistent with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Two national meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

**April 14, 2009**, from 5 until 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City

**April 15, 2009**, from 5 until 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Downtown, Edison 1 Room.

In addition, written and electronic comments may be submitted by the close of business on May 13, 2009, to ensure consideration. Comments and requests for copies of the final PEA should be directed to:

FSFL PEA, Geo-Marine Incorporated  
2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D  
Hampton, VA 23666-1572

Producers can also log on to <http://public.geo-marine.com>. For more information on the FSFL or other FSA farm programs, please visit your FSA county office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### LO-DOC Loans

What is a Lo-Doc loan? Simply put, it is a loan that requires less paperwork than the standard FSA loan. To qualify for a Lo-Doc loan, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be current on all payments to all creditors including the Agency (if an Agency borrower)
2. Have not received primary loan servicing on any Agency debt within the past 5 years
3. Meet one of the following sets of criteria:
  - a. The loan requested is \$50,000 or less and the total outstanding Agency Operating Loan (OL) loan debt at the time of loan closing will be less than \$100,000; or
  - b. The loan requested is to pay annual operating expenses and the applicant is an existing Agency borrower who has received and timely repaid at least two previous annual OL loans from the Agency.

Your Lo-Doc Application request must include the following documents before it can be processed:

- completed FSA-2001 (application)

- entity information (if applicable)
- environmental information
- farm operating plan
- payment of credit report fee
- balance sheet



The loan application will not be processed until all the requirements are met. Your FSA Loan Officer may require additional information from what is listed here if needed to make a determination on the loan application. See your local FSA Farm Loan Officer for more details.

### **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers**

FSA has a program to assist 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 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

### **Direct and Guaranteed Loans**

FSA 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 available now.

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.

Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA em-

ployees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Farm Loan staff.

### **Rural Youth Loans**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate agriculturally based income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

### **NASS Statistical Survey**

#### ***Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?***

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments also screened for farm operators.

#### ***Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys? Because...***

Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation. Regularly updating the information helps ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.



## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. There are additional requirements

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1. See your local FSA office for details.

Dates to Remember	
May 18	Last day for Disaster Buy-In
May 25	Office Closed- Memorial Day
May 31	Reporting deadline for small grains
June 1	DCP Signup Deadline
July 3	Office Closed- Independence Day
July 15	Reporting deadline for most crops except small grains
July 15	Last day to report prior years production for 2009 APH
August 1	NAP closing for Strawberries
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.