



October 2009

## 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  
Lorna Hofstetter, PT  
Dawn Freeman, PT  
Ashlea Visconti, FLOT



October 16, 2009

### Final Payments for 2009 DCP

Payments have begun to be made to enrolled producers. A new payment system is in place this year and payments no longer come directly from the County office, but from the National Finance Center. Once a payment has been made, you should receive a confirmation from the National Finance Center. If you have any questions on this new process please contact the County Office.

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the next few weeks, if you have not already received your payment.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying

drought, or if Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by December 14, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved. For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (feed grain equivalent for adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011
- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other



loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Signup, for producers with eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 14, 2009**. An application for payment shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. **Physical losses will be compensated at 60 percent of the actual replacement cost of the honey bees or honey bee hives.**

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## County Committee Elections

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

## Acreege Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible

they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.



Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

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.

### 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 FSA and CCC 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

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

### Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up is on-going, with the cutoff for the current round of funding scheduled for January 14, 2010. CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers who have achieved a high level of stewardship on their farm or woodlot to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

CSP is available on private agricultural lands and nonindustrial private forest lands. There are two possible types of payments - an annual payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities, and a supplemental

payment for participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

To apply for CSP, potential participants are encouraged to use the self-screening checklist first to determine program suitability. The checklist is available on the **NRCS** Web site and at **NRCS** field offices. Applicants who apply ahead of the deadline will have the greatest flexibility in reviewing their options with **NRCS** using the Conservation Measurement Tool. For additional information about CSP please visit the **NRCS** Website at: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp) or call the **NRCS** office at (856) 205-1225 ext. 3.

### Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

### NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The regular application deadline dates remaining for 2010 coverage are as follows:

**11/20/2009**- Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots

**12/31/2009**- Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips

**3/15/2010**- Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Sorghum Forage, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon & Yams

Some of these crops are actually covered by inde-



pendent crop insurance agents. This will vary by county.

The following crops are covered by independent crop insurance agents for these counties:

**Atlantic County-** Apples, Blueberries, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, and Soybeans

**Cape May County-** Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Processing Beans and Soybeans

**Cumberland County-** Apples, Barley, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and Wheat

NAP coverage for 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer, per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

**\*IMPORTANT\* Future Disaster programs require NAP coverage and/or Crop Insurance coverage on economically significant crops grown in your operation.**

Call the office for more information.

Dates to Remember	
November 11	Office Closed- Veterans Day
November 20	NAP closing for Apples, Apricots, Blueberry, Caneberry, Cherry, Cranberry, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & shallots
November 26	Office Closed- Thanksgiving Day
December 31	NAP closing for Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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

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