



December 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
2nd 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



December 17, 2009

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

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 independent 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

In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely

purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

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.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

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

2010 DCP Signup Continues

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

ACRE

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.



The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

SURE

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create the Supplemental Revenue assistance program (SURE).

The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses.
- Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance

indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

More details on the SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099Gs detailing payments producers have received from FSA. This year, the 2009 Advance payments producers received from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program were processed as overpayments and offset from the 2009 Final payments. The 2009 Advance payments will not be reflected on the CCC-1099Gs producers receive. The CCC-1099G's will reflect only the 2009 DCP direct entitlement.

Producers who have repaid a market gain on a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan with cash or commodity certificates in exchange for outstanding loan collateral will have their market gains reported to the IRS on Form 1099-G.

FSA is required to report to the IRS all market gains associated with repayment of a CCC loan.

A market gain is the difference between the repayment rate, determined by the CCC, and the original loan rate. If the repayment rate drops below the original loan rate then the difference is considered a market gain. Producers will receive, by mail, the amount reported by FSA to the IRS on Form 1099-G.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP) Weed Control

Participants are reminded that as part of your agreement to participate in CREP, you are required to control the growth of noxious weeds on the CREP acres. The conservation plan for your CREP acres outlines specific instructions on the control of weeds.

Please remember that you are part of the larger agriculture community and any lack of control on your part may have an adverse impact on your neighbor(s). Please make an effort to be that good neighbor and control your weeds.

BCAP

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility allowing funding through the program to become available, the facilities can begin accepting materials.

Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

A biomass material producer is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

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 or call the **NRCS** office at (856) 205-1225 ext. 3.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. You can also file a complaint to the Director Office of Civil Rights Room 326 W Stop 9410, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

Assistance Available for Organic Farmers

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices in New Jersey will conduct a special Organic Initiative sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through **February 5, 2010**.

Persons who are engaged in organic livestock and/or organic crop production can apply for financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers, as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production, are eligible to apply.

Under this initiative, a producer's conservation goals may include transitioning to organic agriculture, aiding pollinator populations, increasing biodi-



versity including soil-borne organisms, controlling invasive species, enhancing water quality or other resource-enhancing goal. Practices that are linked to one of these resource concerns may be eligible for a conservation payment. Farmers who want to apply for financial assistance may receive up to \$20,000/year and are limited to \$80,000 over a six-year period. Payments are not authorized for activities or practice components which are solely production related and are not linked to an identified resource concern. Payments may not be used for any costs related to organic certification. To be eligible for EQIP and this special funding, the applicant must have an interest in an agricultural operation (IRS Schedule F form showing profit or loss from a farm operation), own or have control of the land (by lease or rental agreement) for the length of contract, be an individual, entity or joint operation, be registered in the USDA Service Center Information Database (SCIMS), and be certified as organic according to the National Organic Program OR be in the process of transitioning to organic production

More on basic program eligibility and application materials are available on the *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in New Jersey - ORGANIC INITIATIVE* webpage at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/organic.html and at your local USDA Service Center (<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html>).

****Reminder small grain reporting is going on now. Deadline is May 31, 2010****

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day, Office closed
Dec. 31	NAP application closing date for: Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Turnips, and Yams
Jan. 1	New Years Day, Office Closed
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed
March 15	NAP application closing for: Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, and Watermelon
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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

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