



December 2010

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County News

USDA Service Center

**Atlantic/ Cape May/
Cumberland County FSA**
1318 S. Main Rd. Bldg. 5A
Vineland, NJ 08360
856-205-1225 (phone)
856-205-0691 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

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

County Committee meets
2nd Wednesday of month

County Staff

Angela J. Andreoli, CED
Robert R. Maxwell, FLM
Ellen Schmidt, FLO
Lori Tobin, PT
Lorna Hofstetter, PT
Dawn Freeman, PT

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Lori Kertz! Lori was elected to represent farmers from the following areas: Cape May County, Maurice River, Estell Manor, Corbin City, Egg Harbor, Gallo-way, Egg Harbor City, Somers Point, Linwood, Northfield, Pleasantville, Absecon, Longport, Margate, Brigantine, Port Republic, and Atlantic City

The election results for Local Administrative Area 5 are:

Lori Kertz- Elected as regular member with 35 votes
Robert Ohlsen -1st alternate with 13 votes

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:
<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

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 2011 coverage are as follows:

12/31/2010- Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips
3/15/2011- 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.



12/15/10



NAP coverage for 2011 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 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, 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.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)/ Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

DCP contracts are available for the 2011 growing season to producers that operate farms with base acreage (history of reporting grain). If you would like to enroll in ACRE instead of DCP, please call or visit the office. You can sign up now until **June 1, 2011**. We are not able to accept any late-filed applications this year. You may request a 22% advance payment now (DCP only), providing you can show control of the farm for the 2011 crop year. Final payments will be issued in October. Payments are made on 83.3% of base acreage times the payment yield, the payment rate and the producer share. (ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20%) In the event an advanced partial counter cyclical payment is requested and issued and then actual market prices exceed the projected market prices used in determining the partial payments, a refund of payment would occur. We are prohibited from making payments on farms with 10 or fewer acres of crop base. (crop base acres are not actual acres, but a history of crops reported to our office between 1998 and 2001 or prior). If you have a farm(s) in this category, you may combine your farm with 10 base acres or less with another farm that has base acres to increase the amount of base to over 10 acres. If you do not own the farm, you will need to get the owner's signature on our reconstitution form in order to do this. If your farm is reconstituted after the sign up deadline, the contracts for the new resulting farm(s) must be signed within 30 days. All producers on a farm must

designate their shares on the contract (CCC-509). The contract must be revised if there is a successor in interest. In order to be eligible, all forms must be on file, including an AD-1026, CCC-902, CCC-926 and any other applicable forms.

Any crop may be planted on DCP cropland in excess of the base acres on a farm. Our area is designated as a double cropping region which means a Fruit or vegetable (FAV) may be planted on base acreage enrolled in DCP without violation or payment reduction if planted before or after a covered commodity. Planting of a FAV on base acreage (when not double cropped with a covered commodity) will result in payment reduction and possible violation if no FAV history is present on the farm or with the grower. The ACRE program provides grain producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue. Producers who elect and enroll a farm in ACRE agree to: (1) forgo counter-cyclical payments, (2) a 20% reduction in direct payments, and (3) a 30% reduction in the marketing assistance loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. You must annually report the farm's crop acreage and submit production reports by farm number. Eligible commodities for ACRE payments include: Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Oats, Barley and Grain Sorghum. ACRE payments are issued when both the actual State and Farm Revenues fall below the State and Farm ACRE Guarantees. Benchmark Farm Yields will be established using production evidence and/or crop insurance yields. When the ACRE payment acreage exceeds the total base acreage on the farm, you must choose the number of payment acres and commodity (not to exceed the total base on the farm). Once enrolled in ACRE on a farm, you cannot switch back to DCP through 2012. ACRE payments, if triggered, will be made one year later in October 2012, after the end of the marketing year. Please call for more details.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or

advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Feb. 1, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

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.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious upside, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is

heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>

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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where



spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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 currently available.

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.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 24	Christmas Holiday, Office closed
Dec. 31	NAP application closing for: Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Turnips, and Yams
Dec. 31	New Year's Holiday, Office Closed
Jan. 17	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

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj>

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.