



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hunterdon Somerset County FSA

687 Pittstown Road, Suite 2 Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Phone (908) 782-4614 Fax (908) 782-0501 www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- DCP
- ACRE
- Soybean Referendum
- Acreage Reporting Farm Record Changes
- Reconstitutions
- NAP Production Records
- Committee Elections
- Disaster Waiver
- Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 27—ACRE producer meeting
- May 31—last day to request a loan for corn, soybeans, sorghum
- May 31—last day to report small grains (wheat, oats, rye, barley)
- Jul 15—last day to report crops other than small grains
- Aug 14—last day to enroll in DCP or ACRE for 2009

The Hunterdon Somerset County Committee meets the third (3rd) Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM.

The official newspapers are the Hunterdon Democrat and the Courier.

FSA NEWSLETTER

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) payments has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late filed applications.

FSA computes DCP 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 an advance direct payment based on twenty two (22) percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter cyclical payment rates vary depending on the market price and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below the target price.

Producers eligible for DCP are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program or the Direct Counter Cyclical Program.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for 2009, please contact the office to schedule your appointment.

AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE)

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. ACRE sign-up begins on April 27, 2009 and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the five (5) year state Olympic acreage yield and the two (2) year national average price.

Producers who elect ACRE program for a farm agree to: forgo counter cyclical payments; accept a twenty (20) percent reduction of direct payments; and accept a thirty (30) percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, and sunflower seed.

ACRE was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already enrolled in DCP for 2009.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year.

For more information, please contact the office.



For DCP participants interested in ACRE: On Wednesday, May 27, 2009, a producer meeting will be held at the Rutgers Extension Building at 6:30 PM to explain ACRE.

“Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Doreen Beruck at (908) 782-4614 extension 2, (TDD # or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), and Doreen.beruck@nj.usda.gov by Friday, May 22, 2009.

REQUEST FOR SOYBEAN REFERENDUM

On March 4, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at the Farm Service Agency office. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from the office. Forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

The deadline for returning the referendum request is May 29, 2009. USDA will conduct a referendum if at least ten (10) percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth (1/5) of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one (1) state. For more information, contact Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program; AMS, USDA, Stop 0251-Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington DC 20250-0251.

ACREAGE REPORTING



Filing an accurate, timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting, is helpful in avoiding a loss of benefits. **The deadline to report small grains (wheat, oats, rye, barley) is May 31, 2009.** To be considered timely filed, failed acreage must be reported before disposition of the crop and prevented planting must be reported no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop. **If you have NAP coverage, the final date to report a specific crop is the earlier of the established reporting date or fifteen (15) calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.** Please contact the office to schedule an appointment or for more information

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Are you acquiring new parcels for the 2009 crop year or have the owners changed on your current parcels? **Verification proving you are the operator for 2009 may be needed for newly acquired parcels.** Documentation may include a written lease, rental agreement, or other document signed by the owner which identifies whether or not the owner shares in the risk of producing the crop and is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm or would share if the crop is produced; producer's name; owner's name and address; crop year; and farm and tract. **Reminder: Proof of ownership shall be provided when owners have changed.** Documentation may include a copy of the deed; unrecorded deed; land contract; real estate tax statement; or township, block and lot identification. If you are no longer farming a parcel, a reconstitution may need to be completed. Please notify the county office to update your records today.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number (FSN). When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, **recons must be requested by August 1, 2009**, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING



Production records for individual crops need to be filed with the office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first (1st) 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 or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. **2008 Production records must be submitted by July 15, 2009.**

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County Committees provide local input on: commodity price support loans and payments; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; emergency programs; payment eligibility.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

To hold office as a committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria: participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA; be eligible to vote in a county committee election; and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. The person must not have been: removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate, or employee; removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or any other felony; or dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

The following Local Administrative Areas (LAA) are holding elections: LAA 3 consisting of Delaware, East Amwell, and West Amwell Township and LAA 4 consisting of Readington and Tewksbury Townships in Hunterdon County

and Bedminster, Bernards, Branchburg, and Bridgewater Townships in Somerset County.

Nomination forms for the 2009 election will be **accepted from June 15, 2009 through August 3, 2009**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at the office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.

For more information or a nomination form, please contact the 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.

“Buy In” coverage is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per county, per producer and \$900 for multi county producers.

Those who choose to “buy in” under this provision will be considered, to have obtained coverage for the 2008 crop year at a level not to exceed seventy (70) percent of the yield at one hundred (100) percent of the price, for insurable crops. For non-insurable crops, coverage will be equal to seventy (70) percent of the yield.

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), please contact the office.

Hunterdon Somerset County FSA
687 Pittstown Road, Suite 2
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

NEW COMMODITY LOAN REPAYMENT RATES

On April 15, 2009, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, wool, and honey.

The new method reduces the effects of daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments (LDP's).

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous thirty (30) days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning, April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, soybeans, oats, and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes the daily loan repayment rate based on the average market prices during the preceding thirty (30) days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five (5) days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. The effective alternate repayment rate will be the lower of either the thirty (30) day average or the five (5) day average.

The thirty (30) day method will reflect a thirty (30) day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The five (5) day method will reflect a five (5) day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

This new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 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.