



NEWSLETTER



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

December 20, 2010

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to John Yablonosky who was elected to represent LAA #5, on the FSA County Committee. The results were:

LAA #5-- John Yablonosky—42 votes, regular member
John Drake—40 votes, 1st alternate

FSA appreciates all of the voters taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organization meeting on January 20, 2011 to determine who will serve as the chairman and vice-chairman.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) COVERAGE

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 agriculture commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.



The application deadline for 2011 NAP coverage is **December 31, 2010** for turnips, rhubarb, radishes, potatoes, peas, parsnips, kohlrabi, horseradish, leeks, lettuce, greens, herbs, asparagus, beets, broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower; **March 15, 2011** for beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, okra, oats, peppers, sorghum (for Somerset County), squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatillos, tomatoes, watermelons, and yams. Producers who had 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 the previous year's coverage or will change crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: 1) Timely file acreage reports; 2) keep track of harvested production using applicable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required; 3) file a "Notice of Loss" within fifteen (15) calendar days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact the FSA office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hunterdon Somerset County FSA

687 Pittstown Road,
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Fax (908) 782-0501
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

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

Office Staff:

Doreen Beruck-County Executive Director
Elizabeth Banko-Program Technician
Laura LaFevre-Program Technician
Marilyn Barnes-Program Technician (Temp)

County Committee:

Frank Hahola-Chair
Robert Fulper II-Vice Chair
John Drake-member
Gerald Lyness-member
Cynthia Niciecki-minority advisor

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.

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DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) payments ends June 1, 2011. 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. 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 2011, please contact the office to schedule your appointment.

AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION

ACRE is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. ACRE sign-up continues until June 1, 2011. 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 2011 crop year even if they have already enrolled in DCP for 2011. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year.

For more information, please contact the office.

EMERGENCY LOANS

FSA Emergency Loans are available for losses caused by drought and excessive heat from June 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Hunterdon, Somerset, and Union Counties are included in the eligible area. Please contact Ginny Brophy in the Hackettstown FSA office at (908) 852-2576 extension 110 for more information. Applications will be accepted until July 22, 2011.

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, 2011. To be considered timely filed, failed acreage must be reported before disposition of the 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. **Farms participating in DCP and those requesting LDP's (loan deficiency program payments) and marketing assistance loans are required to report all cropland on the farm to be eligible for benefits. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment or for more information.**

PREVENTED PLANTING

Prevented planting can be reported on your acreage report. **To be considered timely reported, prevented planting must be reported within fifteen (15) calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.** When reporting prevented planting acreage, you must establish the crop was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. In addition, you need to establish preliminary efforts were made to plant the crop. Preliminary efforts include orders for purchase, delivery of seed and fertilizer, disking the land, or financing documents. If you are reporting prevented planting acreage, please contact the office.



FARM RECORD CHANGES

Are you acquiring new parcels for the 2011 crop year or have the owners changed on your current parcels? **Verification proving you are the operator for 2011 may be needed for newly acquired parcels.** Documentation may include a written lease, rental agreement, or other document signed by the owner. Documentation needs to identify 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 must 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.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the ranking period cut-off date for producer applications in CSP has been extended to January 7, 2011.

CSP is offered in all fifty (50) states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off dates for ranking periods. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancement and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

All producers are encouraged to apply for CSP. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial forestland. New Jersey currently has contracts with nine (9) producers covering 2,468 acres, the result of applications submitted in 2010.

Applicants must have FSA records established prior to application, documented control of the land for the next five (5) years, current

compliance with HEL (highly erodible land) requirements and adjusted gross income provisions. NRCS field staff will conduct on-site field verification of the applicants' information. Once the potential participant has been field verified and if the application is approved for funding, a Conservation Stewardship Plan and contract will be developed.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirement, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from the local NRCS office or online at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

Marketing Assistance Loans are available. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. 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 you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility requires compliance with the conservation and wetland protection requirements (AD-1026); beneficial interest requirements; complete acreage report; and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible, the commodity must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition, be merchantable for food, feed, or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained through the term of the loan, nine (9) months.

The loan rates for 2010 are: Corn--\$2.17 per bushel; Sorghum--\$3.76 per hundredweight; Soybeans-- \$5.05 per bushel; barley--\$1.70 per bushel; oats--\$1.38 per bushel; wheat--\$1.88 per bushel; sunflower seed--\$6.95 per hundredweight. The interest rate for October is 1.25%. For more information or to apply for a marketing assistance loan, please contact the office.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 31, 2010: NAP sales closing date for 2011 asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, Cauliflower, greens, herbs, horseradish, leeks, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, turnips

January 7, 2011—last day to apply for emergency loans under Presidential Disaster Declaration M1897

January 28, 2011—last day to apply for Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

January 31, 2011—last day to apply for loans and LDP's for mohair, unshorn pelts, and mohair

March 15, 2011—NAP sales closing date for 2011 beans, brussel sprouts, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum, squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon, yams

Continues: Sign up for continuous CRP, CREP, SAFE, farm storage facility loans

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS (FSFL)

FSFL allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) provides a loan for up to eighty five (85) percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of seven (7), ten (10), or twelve (12) years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Eligible commodities include: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, or barley harvested as whole grain; corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain; hay; renewable biomass; fruits including nuts and vegetables.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)

GRP sign-up continues through January 28, 2011. GRP is a voluntary program managed by Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). GRP assists owners and operators of private land in protecting grazing uses and related conservation values. GRP emphasizes the enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion; and support for working grazing operations. Applicants may choose between a ten (10), fifteen (15), or twenty (20) year rental contract or a permanent easement. Rental contract holders receive an annual payment and fifty (50) percent of the cost of restoration practices. For more information, please contact the office.

In Memory: Ed Jablonski, Hunterdon Somerset County Committee member, recently passed away. Ed served as a county committee member for LAA 2 since January 2003. Ed will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

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