



2011 DCP Signup Underway

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. 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 2011 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Acreage Reporting

Time is nearing for producers to report their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), acreage reports are to be certified by the May 31, 2011 deadline on small grains and a July 15, 2011 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31, 2011 for small grains and July 15, 2011 for all other

crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

SURE Sign-up Continues

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2009 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

A farm is eligible to enroll in SURE when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Counties serviced through this Service Center are covered by the secretarial designation. Therefore, producers who meet all other requirements are eligible for SURE participation in 2009 without having to meet the 50% loss threshold criteria. Producer reports, to the office, about weather related losses are vital to a county receiving Secretarial Designations – thereby making SURE eligibility easier to attain. Please continue to notify FSA about weather-related physical or crop damage.

Is Your Farm Changing?

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to most your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

FSA Office Hunterdon, Somerset Counties

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.

County Committee

Frank Hahola
Robert Fulper
Gerald Lyness
John Yablonosky
Cynthia Nicieki
(Minority Advisor)

COC meets:

3rd Thursday of Month
8:30 AM

County Staff

Doreen Beruck CED
Virginia Brophy FLM
Beth Banko PT
Laura LaFevre PT
Marilyn Barnes PT (temp.)





Eligible Losses for NAP

NAP covers participants for "natural disasters" such as:

- drought
- hail
- freeze
- excessive moisture
- wind.

Did you know that NAP also covers participants for conditions resulting from "natural disasters" such as:

- heat
- disease
- insect infestation

May 1, 2011- NAP Deadline for 2012 Nursery

CRP Signup Ends April 15

Farmers have until April 15 to enroll eligible land into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the general sign-up period.

Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the wildlife, water, soil, and air benefits of enrolling the land in CRP.

Manage Your Risk with the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

NAP compensates producers that experience catastrophic losses that are weather related for covered crops.

In addition to providing catastrophic coverage NAP (or Crop Insurance) is also a prerequisite for other disaster programs like 2009 (and future) SURE.

To receive coverage for an eligible crop for a crop year or planting period, the application must be accompanied by a service fee in an amount that is equal to the lesser of \$250 per crop per county; or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer per multi-county.

Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. For the 2011 crop year the NAP application period has closed. Applications are being accepted for 2012. **NAP for 2012 nursery will close May 1, 2011.**

Producers that enroll in NAP must complete an acreage report and provide production after harvest. Producers must report losses 15 days after the loss is apparent and may not destroy the crop until it has been appraised by FSA. Failure to do so will result in the ineligibility of that crop.

Production evidence for all crops must be reported to FSA to receive benefits. Maintaining your Actual production History (APH) each year will provide you the greatest NAP benefit. Production can be reported either with production receipts or by certifying your production before the final crop reporting date of the following year. Production evidence can be verifiable, reliable or certified.

Borrow up to \$500,000 for Hay, Grain and Temperature Controlled Storage with FSFL

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to

build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities, including cold storage for fruits, vegetable and even grapes used in wine production.



Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, hay, renewable biomass, fruits and vegetables

Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement during construction and the remaining payment after construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices, such as water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization's advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age;
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.75-3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%
Conservation Loan	5.00%

CONSERVATION CORNER

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for persons who are engaged in livestock, forestry or agricultural production, including organic production. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. NRCS professionals work with producers to develop a conservation plan for their operation, design conservation practices, and provide guidance to help implement the plan. Applicants must have an interest in an agricultural operation, and be compliant with the conservation provisions of the 2008 farm bill with current crop and producer records on file with USDA's Farm Service Agency. They must own or control the land, and agree to implement conservation practices according to the contract schedule.

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** is a voluntary USDA program for improving or developing fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. The program provides both technical and financial assistance to establish and enhance habitat for priority species and habitat types. Eligible applicants work with their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to prepare and implement a wildlife plan of operations. The plan becomes the basis for a contract which, if funded through a competitive ranking process, provides payments for completed practices that create or improve the approved wildlife habitat.

For both programs, applications may be submitted anytime during the year. A signed application filed with the local NRCS office indicates an interest in developing a conservation plan as the first step in the application process. The application period runs through August 31, 2011 for 2012 fiscal year funding. Please see the NRCS website for additional information www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov.

April Newsletter
Published 4-4-2011

Conservation Programs that Address YOUR Needs

Don't let erosion ruin your valuable cropland.
With Farm Service Agency funding you can
repair and reclaim eroding ground.

After, stabilized waterway



100%
of costs
covered

Before, gully erosion



The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows eligible producers and landowners to address their conservation needs. In most cases with 100% of the cost covered!

50% Federal Cost-Share
40% Practice Incentive Payment
10% State Cost-Share
Equals 100% satisfaction.

Eligible practices:

- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Grassed Waterway
- Grass Filter Strips
- Contour Filter Strips

**For more information call
The Hunterdon-Somerset County
FSA Service Center at: (908) 782-4614**

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