



NEWSLETTER



August 12, 2011

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hunterdon/ Somerset County FSA Office

687 Pittstown Road,
Suite 2
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Phone:

(908) 782-4614 x 2

FAX:

(908) 782-0501

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

County Staff

Doreen Beruck-CED
Virginia Brophy-SFLO
Elizabeth Banko-PT
Laura LaFevre-PT

County Committee

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

The County Committee meets the third (3rd) Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM. Since meetings are subject to change, please contact the office if you are planning to attend.

The official newspapers are the Hunterdon Democrat and The Courier.

The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when a low yield, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. The sign-up for the 2012 crop year is currently underway.

NAP application deadlines vary according to the crop being covered. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Related service fees are due when the application is filed, and the service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop's sales closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed \$1,875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. To qualify for coverage, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.



NAP sales closing dates are:

September 1: Christmas trees, fin fish, flowers, sod (grass)

September 30: clover, grass, mixed forage, rye

November 20: apricots, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, grapes, honey, onions, pears, plums

December 31: asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, greens, herbs, horseradish, leeks, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, turnips

March 15: beans, brussel sprouts, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum (Somerset County only), squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons

FCIC PROGRAM INTEGRITY

FSA assists the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and approved insurance providers (AIP's) in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to FSA, RMA, or the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Producer information will be provided to RMA and AIP's to assist with claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Disaster Assistance is available to producers who suffered losses to livestock, farm raised fish, and honey bees as a result of adverse weather or other conditions. The assistance is available through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Producers with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application within thirty (30) calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or October 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. For more information or an application, please contact the office.

BANKING CHANGES?



If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number, or account numbers, be provided to the office promptly to avoid possible delays in payments.



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

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.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of fifteen (15) percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining eighty five (85) percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loans terms of seven (7), ten (10), or twelve (12) years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term vary and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. The interest rates for August 2011 are 2.25% for 7 year loans; 3.00% for 10 year loans; and 3.375% for 12 year loans.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of a partial disbursement is fifty (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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain
- Pulse crops—lentils, small chickpeas, and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables—cold storage facilities
-  **Honey (newly added as an eligible commodity)**

For more information about FSFL, please visit the office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES AVAILABLE

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home twenty four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the office for identity verification. If you have questions or would like assistance establishing your account, please contact the office.

Reminder! If you have an email address and would like to receive reminders via email, please let the office know. Future newsletters can be sent electronically. Thank you.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

FSA 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 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 ten (10) years to twenty (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
- 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 supervisor.

If you would like more information or an application, please contact the office.

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 has been 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

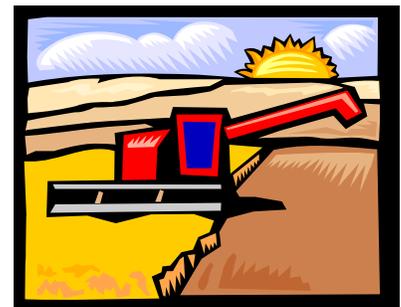
- Keepseagle—The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement, please visit:
www.IndianFarmClass.com or
Call 1-888-233-5506

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 a 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, or denial of future commodity loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization or providing an incorrect quantity certification.

For additional program information or a loan application, please contact the office or view the information online at www.fsa.usda.gov.



Hunterdon/Somerset
Farm Service Agency
687 Pittstown Rd, Ste 2
Frenchtown, NJ 08825



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DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 1st: NAP sales closing date for Christmas trees, fin fish, flowers, sod (grass)

September 30th: NAP sales closing date for clover, grass, mixed forage, rye

Crop Insurance sales closing date for wheat

November 20th: apricots, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, grapes, honey, onions, pears, plums

Crop Insurance sales closing date for peaches and apples

December 5th: last day for eligible voters in LAA #1 and LAA #2 to return their ballots

Continuous: CREP, continuous CRP, SAFE, FSFL

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within ninety (90) days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to twenty five (25) percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.