

May 2013



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## Name Hunterdon Somerset County, NJ FSA Updates

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### Hunterdon Somerset County FSA Office

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### EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

#### EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM/ EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

Agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners affected by the historic hurricane also known as Superstorm Sandy, here in the Garden State may be eligible for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) or Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP).

Producers and landowners having farmland or nonindustrial private forest damaged by Superstorm Sandy have until May 31, 2013, to file an application for assistance. This extends the sign-up previously held for Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

ECP provides agricultural producers additional resources to remove debris from farmland, restore livestock fencing and conservation

**Farm Loan Officer:**

Megan Everswick

structures, and grade and shape farmland damaged by a natural disaster.

Land eligibility is based on on-site inspections of damaged land and considers the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land's productive capacity; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of non-industrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must: have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees) and; be owned by an non-industrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would: impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and materially affect future use of the land.

To restore NIPF, EFRP program participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures: necessary to repair damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on non-industrial private forest land and restore forest health and forest related resources on the land.

For further information on eligibility requirements and applications, producers may contact the office or the FSA website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

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## **DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)/ AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE)**

The sign up period for DCP and ACRE is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before August 2, 2013, and for ACRE before June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP or may re-enroll in ACRE for 2013. Likewise, producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Read more about DCP and ACRE on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or contact the office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

USDA will conduct a four (4) week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), from May 20, 2013 through June 14, 2013. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about twenty seven (27) million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost share assistance to plant long-term, resource conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, contact the office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## MICROLOANS ARE CULTIVATING BIG DREAMS ON A SMALL SCALE

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for the initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact Megan Everswick at (908) 852-2576 extension 104.

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## FARM RECORD CHANGES

Did you acquire new parcels for the 2013 crop year, or have the owners changed on your current parcels? Verification proving you are the operator for 2013 may be needed for newly acquired parcels.

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.

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## ACREAGE REPORTING

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. **Reminder!** The deadline to report spring seeded small grains and forage is June 15th. Perennial forage and fall seeded small grains were to have been reported by November 15th. All other crops are to be reported by July 15th.

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

For crops enrolled in the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), acreage reports are to be completed by the earlier of November 15th for fall seeded small grains or perennial forage, June 15th for spring seeded small grains or forage, July 15th for all other crops, or fifteen (15) calendar

days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop being reported.

Please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

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