

June 2013



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Hunterdon Somerset County FSA Updates

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COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The upcoming 2013 FSA county committee election will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5. LAA 5 consists of Franklin, Hillsborough, and Montgomery Townships in Somerset County and Raritan Township in Hunterdon County. The nomination form is available at the office or online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. 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 ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

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

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. Acreage must be reported as follows:

- **November 15th** for perennial forage (hay) and small grains (wheat, oats, barley)
- **January 15th** for apples, peaches, blueberries
- **June 15th** for spring seeded perennial forage and spring seeded small grains (oats)
- **July 15th** for all other crops

For crops enrolled in NAP, the acreage must be reported the earlier of the applicable acreage reporting date or fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific acreage being reported.

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 acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

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

Please contact the office today to schedule an appointment today.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN UP

The sign up period for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) continues until **August 2, 2013**. If you have not completed your 2013 DCP contract, please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

Eligible producers who share in the DCP payments for a farm must sign the 2013 CCC-509, DCP/ ACRE contract, by August 2, 2013. The following documents are required, also: a farm operating plan (CCC-902); average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-933); highly erodible land conservation compliance (AD-1026); and an acreage report with respect to all crops and all cropland on the farm (FSA-578). All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the contract and receive a proportionate share of the payment for the farm.

Changes on a DCP farm after August 2nd must be reported to the office, such as: ownership changes; producer changes (individual to entity), or changes in crop share arrangements. Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2013.

Producers may plant any commodity on acreage, including base acreage enrolled in DCP. However, producers are prohibited from planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE program unless the commodity is destroyed without benefit before harvest or an exception applies.

Fruits and vegetables or wild rice may be planted on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE, if one of the following exceptions applies:

- On a farm that has a history of planting fruits and vegetables or wild rice, except that direct and counter cyclical payments will be reduced by an acre for acre of base acres planted to the fruit, vegetable, or wild rice
- If the producer has an established history of planting a specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice, except that such plantings on base acreage cannot exceed the producer's average annual planting history for the specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice for the 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001 crop years, as determined by the producer. The direct and counter cyclical payments shall be reduced by an acre for each acre

of base acres planted to the specific fruit, specific vegetable, or wild rice

Failure to comply with the fruit, vegetable, and wild rice provisions is a contract violation. The violation shall result in the termination of the contract or a reduction in direct, counter cyclical, and ACRE program payments.

DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,302,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,602,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Megan Everswick at (908) 852-2576 extension 104.

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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