

July 15, 2013



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Hunterdon Somerset Counties New Jersey FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Hunterdon Somerset County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Hunterdon-Somerset County FSA Office

687 Plittstown Road, Suite 2

Frenchtown, NJ 08825

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2 Fax: 877-487-3734

County Executive Director:

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to 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 the county committee help with the decisions

Doreen Beruck

necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Program Technicians:

Elizabeth Banko

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

Laura LaFevre

Farm Loan Officer:

Megan Everswick

Phone: 908-852-2576 x 104

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5 consisting of Franklin, Hillsborough, and Montgomery Townships in Somerset County and Raritan Township in Hunterdon County is up for election this year. **The County Committee nomination period runs through August 1, 2013.** Nomination forms are available at the Frenchtown Service Center and online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf

For more information contact the office.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The sign-up period for DCP is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before **Friday, August 2, 2013.**

The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the office.

FILING FOR NON-INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) LOSSES

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. **For losses on crops covered by NAP or crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.** For failed acreage, the notice of loss must be filed before the crop is destroyed.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and Notice of Loss must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of the final planting date for the applicable crop.

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, producers 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 loan—even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

For more information, please contact the office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=col>.

MICROLOAN PROGRAMS

FSA developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche, and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation, and annual expenses such as: seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or who would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact Megan Everswick at (908) 852-2576 extension 104.

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