

Service Center Newsletter . . .

August 3, 2009



DCP & ACRE Enrollment Deadline - Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup for the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA computes DCP Program 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.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) – The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) which provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees (nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas), bushes, and vines that were lost or damaged because of natural disaster. TAP applies only to orchardists who commercially produce trees for production of annual crop and nursery tree growers who suffer tree deaths in excess of 15% after adjustment for normal mortality. Such losses must have occurred in a calendar year beginning on or after Jan.1, 2008, and before Oct.1, 2011.

USDA Payment Changes - Changes in Federal law will delay by one day how quickly USDA farm payments reach producers. All payments by USDA Farm Service Agency by direct deposit will be transmitted first from Kansas City to the Treasury Department to comply with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. That allows federal payments to be compared to any delinquent federal debt the recipient might owe. The treasury will notify the recipient of any money deducted for debts due other agencies. FSA will not receive notice of those deductions. If there are questions about a deduction, the recipient may call the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) at (800) 304-3107. Another change will be in the description of the source of a direct deposit payment on bank statements. The bank statement will read "FSA TREAS310" for all payments disbursed by the Treasury Department.



Livestock Indemnity Program - The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death	Jan. 30, 2010

Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – If you suspect serious crop damage, and in order to benefit from your NAP coverage, you must report the damage to our office and file a notice of loss within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. That way we can send someone out to make an inspection while the crop is still in the field. As a reminder, the final date to purchase NAP coverage for a 2010 policy on Christmas Trees, Fin-Fish, Flowers and Grass Sod is September 1, 2009. To cover Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye, and Wheat the sales closing date is September 30, 2009.

County Committee Elections – The nomination period for the County Committee election ended on August 3rd. This year’s election covers Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1, which is primarily Monmouth County. The eligible nominees for which approved FSA-669A’s were received are Richard Bullock of Cream Ridge, and Debra Kauffman of Farmingdale. The next step in the process is the mailing of the ballots, which will happen by November 6th. Voters will have until December 7, 2009 to return their ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates will then take office on Jan. 1, 2010. To be eligible to vote a person must be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either an owner, operator, tenant, or sharecropper. An eligible voter could also be a partner in a general partnership or a member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm. A person may also vote if, regardless of age, they supervise and conduct the farming operations on an entire farm or if they are eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law. No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Electronic Services Available - If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. 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 <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.



For more information you may visit our State website at www.fsa.usda.gov/nj.

Dates to Remember!

- August 14, 2009 - Deadline to sign contracts for Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.
- September 1, 2009 – Final day to purchase NAP coverage for Christmas trees, Flowers, and Sod.
- September 2, 2009 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:30 pm)
- September 30, 2009 – Final date to purchase NAP coverage for Barley, Grass, Mixed Forage, and Rye.
- November 6, 2009 – All County Committee ballots mailed out to voters.



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