



November 3, 2010

Farm Service Agency

Serving
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Mercer &
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County Committee

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*“dedicated to achieving
an economically and
environmentally sound
future for American
Agriculture”*

Crop Assistance Program - Signup for the Crop Assistance Program (CAP) began October 25, 2010, and continues through December 9, 2010. Up to \$550 million in disaster assistance will be issued to producers of rice, upland cotton, **soybeans** and sweet potatoes that suffered losses because of excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. Payments will be made available to producers of eligible crops that received Secretarial disaster designations due to excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. A list of eligible disaster counties for CAP is located at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers of eligible crops on farms in disaster counties who certify to a 5 percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on a predetermined payment rate times the planted acres of the crop. Per-acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign up is complete they will receive up to an additional 25 percent.

County Committee Elections - Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot (LAA 2). Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.



Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - As a reminder, the deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2011 crops including Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Rye, Scallions, and Walnuts is November 20, 2010. Additional deadlines are: December 31, 2010 - Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Turnips. March 15, 2011- Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes,

Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelons, Yams. Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to timely file acreage-reports, keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods, and file a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a weather-related loss is apparent to receive benefits.

Financial Services Information - Individual producers who have internet access and have registered for e-Authentication Level 2 may use the USDA's Financial Services website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. In this secure website, producers may view information about current and historical financial information.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS - Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

Farm Reconstitutions - In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number (FSN). When changes in ownership or operator take place, a farm reconstitution must be requested by Aug 1. The reconstitution (recon) is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are different methods used when completing a farm recon: **Estate Method**—the division of bases for a parent farm among the heirs settling an estate. **Designation by Landowner Method**—divides base in a manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and the purchaser or transferee. The Landowner Method can be used when: part of the farm is sold or ownership is transferred; an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; a tract is sold to two or more persons; tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years, unless a waiver is granted and the owner of the parent farm and the purchaser or transferee shall file a signed memorandum of understanding designating base-acres before the farm is reconstituted and any subsequent transfer of ownership. **DCP Cropland Method**—the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract. **Default Method**—the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Dates to Remember!

November 6, 2010 - COC Election ballots go out in the mail to all eligible voters.

November 11, 2010 – Service Center Office closed in observance of Veterans Day.

November 20, 2010 - Next NAP sales closing date for some 2011 crops.

December 9, 2010 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (9:00am), including COC Election ballot count.

December 9, 2010 – Crop Assistance Program (CAP) signup deadline.

Through June 1, 2011 – DCP and ACRE signup period for 2011.



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