



February 11, 2011

Farm Service Agency

Serving Monmouth,  
Mercer &  
Middlesex Counties

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County Committee  
Richard Bullock  
Thomas Orgo II  
Barry Taylor  
Kathy Stattel

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



[Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program \(SURE\)](#) - Signup for the 2009 SURE began on Jan. 10, 2011 and will remain open through July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration, which includes Monmouth, Mercer, and Middlesex Counties for 2009, or a contiguous county, or the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

[Non-Insured Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) - The next sign-up deadline for 2011 coverage is **March 15, 2011** for: all beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupe, celery, corn (popcorn and processing sweet corn), cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, oats, okra, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatillos, tomatoes, watermelon, and yams.

[DCP Signup & Advance Payments](#) - Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are available. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011.

[ACRE](#) - The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2011, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio

of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30%. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. To enroll in ACRE the owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.



[Customer Statements](#) - Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

**Sorghum Checkoff Referendum Scheduled** - USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage). Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum. Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

### **Important Annual Reminders:**

**Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance** - Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

**Spousal Signatures** - Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for most FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. Husbands and wives who have “official” joint ventures or partnerships must have a power of attorney on file to be able to sign for the entity.

**Address Changes** – If either a business address or a mailing address has changed in any way please make sure to provide that information to the FSA Office so that our records may be updated.



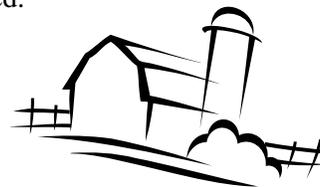
### **Dates to Remember!**

**March 2, 2011** - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (9:00am)

**March 15, 2011** - Next NAP sales closing date for some 2011 crops.

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

**July 29, 2011** - SURE program signup closes for 2009 losses.



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