



 May 12, 2011

Farm Service Agency

Serving Monmouth,
Mercer &
Middlesex Counties

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County Committee
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*"dedicated to achieving
an economically and
environmentally sound
future for American
Agriculture"*



[County Committee Elections](#) - Each year, an election is held in a LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In 2011 the LAA #3 (Mercer County and a small part of western Monmouth County) seat is up for election. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at your local USDA Service Center. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated; indicating agreement to serve if elected, and be returned to the FSA county office by the close of the nomination period, August 1, 2011. County committees provide local input on such things as Commodity Price Support Loans, Conservation programs, Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments, Emergency programs, and payment eligibility. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate. A nominee may not have been removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee, or removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony, or dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.



[DCP and Average Crop Revenue Election \(ACRE\) Signup](#) - 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program though June 1, 2011. 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 owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. Sign-up can be accomplished by making an appointment at your USDA Service Center.

[Emergency Assistance for 2010 Losses](#) - More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also under way. Producers with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application no later than Jan. 30, 2012. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or Oct. 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

[Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program \(SURE\)](#) - Signup for the **2009** SURE remain open through July 29, 2011.

Crop Reporting - Timely and accurate annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Producers need to file their acreage reports by May 31, 2011 for Fall-planted crops and July 15, 2011 for Spring-planted crops. Any prevented-planting acreage needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

NAP Records - Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, visit: www.blackfarmercase.com

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement, visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506 .

Dates to Remember!

May 31, 2011 - Small Grains Reporting deadline

June 1, 2011 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:30pm); DCP and ACRE signup period ends for 2011.

June 15, 2011 - COC Election nomination period begins.

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

August 1, 2011 - Final date for County Office to receive COC Election nominations.



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