



July 14, 2011

Farm Service Agency

Serving Monmouth,
Mercer &
Middlesex Counties

4000 Kozloski Road
P.O. Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728

Phone:
(732) 462-0075
Fax:
(732) 462-5274

Office Hours:
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
or visit us at:
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee

Richard Bullock
Thomas Orgo II
Barry Taylor
Kathy Stattel, Advisor

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

County Committee Elections - County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1, 2011, deadline. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.



2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended - The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on September 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. For more details contact your local FSA office.

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) - The FSFL program will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principle amount is \$500,000 and participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Applications for FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.



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.

NAP insurance sales closing dates for 2012 crop year - September 30, 2011 - Barley, Clover, Mixed Forage, Rye, Wheat. November 20, 2011 - Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions, Shallots, Walnuts. December 31, 2011 - Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Turnips. March 15, 2012- Beans, Brussel Sprouts,

Cantaloupe, Celery, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelons, Yams.

Marketing Assistance Loans - A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Foreign Landowner Notification - The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Farm Service Agency, who administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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!

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

August 1, 2011 - Final date to request farm reconstitutions; also final day to accept County Committee Nomination forms (FSA-669A); and Sales closing date for 2012 NAP coverage on Strawberries.

September 7, 2011 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:30pm).



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