



Sept. 6, 2011

*Farm Service Agency*

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Middlesex Counties**

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**County Committee**

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

[A Note From Secretary Vilsack](#) - Some recent news stories have focused on suspicions and rumors about the Obama administration's work on agriculture. The truth is that the President, EPA Administrator Jackson and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and producers so we can be the best possible partner for successful operations. These efforts are helping farmers enjoy some of the best incomes they have seen in decades. Sadly, rumors and misconceptions have become the norm, not the exception, especially when it comes to regulations and how they might affect our nation's producers. First, it was that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was considering treating spilled milk like an oil spill. Not true. And in terms of water regulations, EPA has made it clear that recent rules do not seek to regulate land that occasionally ponds during heavy rains. Regulation of farm dust is another frequently repeated myth, based on a congressionally-mandated review that the EPA has conducted every 5 years for decades. We all know you can't farm without dust. And EPA has no plans to propose stricter standards. And the Department of Transportation announced just last week that it has no intention of proposing any new regulations or rules on the transport of agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm. Perhaps more importantly, the Obama Administration has worked to be the most accessible and collaborative in history. The President and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and other producers and actively collaborating across the federal government to help everyone understand the facts of American agriculture. I maintain a regular dialogue with Lisa Jackson at EPA and we even visited farms in Iowa together. The collaborative partnership we enjoy is reflected in our policies: pursuing common-sense standards that will give farmers a seat at the table and let them make the decisions they feel are best for their own operations.

One result of this sort of collaboration is that in 2009 and 2010, the federal government issued fewer new rules than it did in 2007 and 2008. The USDA will continue to be helpful in providing producers with the information they need to help their operations succeed, and not to get caught up in rumor or exaggeration. And folks with additional questions should contact the EPA directly, where they should be able to get further help in separating fact

from fiction. EPA and USDA understand that if we are going to solve the major environmental challenges of our time – combating climate change, reducing soil erosion, and ensuring an ample supply of clean water and healthy food for our families – farmers must help lead the way.

[Disaster Assistance](#) - The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.



[Emergency Farm Loans](#) - USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property; Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; Pay essential family living expenses; Reorganize the farming operation; and Refinance certain debts.

[Producers Must Report AGI to IRS](#) - In order to receive USDA program payments, each payment recipient must have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement.

[NAP Loss Filing](#) - Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) a producer must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

[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.



[Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process](#), visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429.

[Pigford](#) – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, visit: [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)

[Keepseagle](#) - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement, visit: [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506 .

September 14, 2011 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:30pm).

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