

May 2013



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## Salem/Gloucester Farm Service Agency Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Woodstown FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Woodstown FSA Office    2013 Acreage Reporting

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NJ 08098

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**County Executive Director:**  
Al DiBella

**Program Technicians:**  
Deanne Bill, Sherri Paulding,  
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**Farm Loan Manager:**

Please **call now** to schedule an appointment to report the crops you have planted. **The deadline for most crops is July 15, 2013.** We would like to take reports earlier this year to try to beat the mad rush in July. So, if you have finished planting or will shortly, please schedule as soon as possible. Acreage reporting is required for NAP, CRP, CREP, SAFE, SURE, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, the DCP and ACRE programs and may be necessary for future crop disaster or market assistance programs which may arise.

Reminder –The new deadline to report 2013 Processing Beans is August 15, 2013. The new deadline to report **2014 Wheat, Barley, Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and all other fall-seeded small grains is now November 15, 2013.** These new deadlines are now in effect to coincide

## Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP Policyholder Reminder: Please submit your 2012 crop production records as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. They are due by **July 15, 2013**, but we know you will be very busy by then. If production records are not submitted, your NAP coverage will be reduced. Also, when reporting your 2013 crop acreage, please review your acreage reports carefully. If your reported acreage is off by more than 15%, plus or minus, you will be ineligible for NAP benefits. Paid for measurement service is available.

Also, if you suspect serious crop damage, you must report it to our office and file a notice of loss **within 15 calendar days** after the disaster occurrence or the date the damage is apparent. If your crop will not be taken to harvest or is handpicked, you will need to have an appraisal done. Please, **do not destroy your field until a loss adjuster has given the field a final appraisal.**

Signup for 2014 coverage is currently underway. NAP applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 for all crops per producer per county. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. To qualify for coverage, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. 2014 NAP coverage closing dates that are approaching are as follows: **August 1, 2013** – Strawberries; **September 4, 2013** - Grass Sod, Fin fish, Christmas Trees; **October 1, 2013** - Clover, Grass hay, Mixed forages and Rye.

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## DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on **Aug. 2, 2013**; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on **June 3, 2013**.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment. Contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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## County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency's local committee elections will be held this fall for local administrative area (LAA) 1. LAA 1 consists of Pennsville, Mannington, Elsinboro, Lower Alloways Creek, Quinton and Salem City. The farmer-elected committee is your voice in USDA's programs here in this area. Members of the committee work with area residents to maintain the local focus of many USDA programs, inform people of what's available, and help other producers understand how the programs work. Committee members work to help shape national programs into working local programs. The Farm Service Agency is now accepting nominating petitions until **August 1, 2013**. You may nominate yourself or someone you would like to represent you.

## Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-up

Sign-up for the CRP general program will begin on May 20th and end on **June 14, 2013**. Unlike Continuous CRP or CREP, participants may offer entire fields for enrollment in the program, which are taken out of agricultural production. Rental payments and up to 50% cost sharing for the practice installation are available on the 10 to 15 year contracts. Competitive offers for general sign-up will be evaluated based on five environmental factors and cost.

To be eligible, the offered land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity, four out of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible. In addition, the cropland must also have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher or be expiring CRP acreage. Please call for more information.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Sign-up is back for CREP! The following practices are included in CREP: Grass Waterways, Contour Grass Strips, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers. Between Federal and State funding, most practices are fully installed at no cost to you with 100% cost share reimbursement! Rental payments are 100% to 150% greater than normal rates and most are over \$100 per acre! Also, a \$100 per acre sign-up incentive payment applies! (except for contour grass strips). Under CREP, program participants enroll in contracts of 10 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to grass, trees or other vegetation. Under the riparian buffer and filter strip practice, you may apply for permanent fencing and/or a watering facility, if you need to fence animals from a stream or pond. To qualify, you must have a history of cropping the ground for 4 out of 6 years between 2002 and 2007. (cropping history is not needed for riparian buffers on marginal pastureland.) Please call now for further details.

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## Emergency Loans

Gloucester and Salem counties received Natural Disaster Determinations for 2012 due to a variety of weather conditions. Loan applications will be received through October 15, 2013.

FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Please call the Vineland Office at 856-205-1225 x 2 for more information or to apply.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; For other than whole grain harvest—Corn, grain sorghum,

wheat, oats or barley; Hay; Renewable biomass; Fruits and vegetables - cold storage facilities. After the stored commodity has been marketed, the facility may, with prior approval, be used to temporarily store equipment and other agricultural items until the next harvest season. For more information about FSFL please give us a call or go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

The current interest rates are 1.25% for a 7 year loan (under \$100K); 1.875% for a 10 year loan (\$100K to \$250K); 2.125% for a 12 year loan (\$250K to \$500K). Rates change monthly.

### **Guaranteed Loan Program**

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has increased to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact the Vineland FSA office at 856-205-1225 with questions about farm loans.

### **Rural Youth Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

For more information please contact the Vineland Office at 856-205-1225. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

### **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- § Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- § Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- § Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the Vineland Office at 856-205-1225. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians,

Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere. Please contact the Vineland Office at 856-205-1225 for more info.

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