



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

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www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

Lindsay Spagnoli,
Acting CED
John Snearowski, PT
Diandra Brunstetter, PT
Debbie Crisman, PT
Virginia Brophy, FLM

County Committee

Nancy Bilyk
Scott Ashley
Carl Sigler
Holly Sytsema
Robert De Block

County Committee meets
the last Monday of month
at 9:00am

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Nov 6 - COC ballots mailed out
- Nov 11 - Office Closed for Veteran's Day
- Nov 20 - NAP closing date for apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberrries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, nectarines, onions & scallions, peaches, pears, plums
- Nov 26 - Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec 7 - COC ballots due back to FSA office
- Dec 10 - COC ballots counted in the FSA office at 9:00am



FSA NEWSLETTER

County Committee Elections

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 and #3 starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. Ballots will be counted on December 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Hackettstown Farm Service Agency Office.

COC Election Nominees

The following individuals have met the eligibility requirements to run for the County Committee this election period. One individual has been nominated in each the LAA#2 and LAA#3 election.

Robert DeBlock has been nominated in Local Administrative Area #2, Warren County to serve as COC member for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2010. Mr. DeBlock has been farming for forty (40) years and currently produces hay, grain and livestock. Mr. DeBlock retired from dairy farming in 2006. Mr. DeBlock is an active member for the Farm Bureau and is willing to serve on the County Committee if elected.

James Smith has been nominated in Local Administrative Area #3, Warren County to serve as COC member for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2010. Mr. Smith has been farming for forty-five (45) years and currently produces corn, soybeans, and hay. Mr. Smith is willing to serve on the County Committee if elected.

2009 DCP Payments

Software to conduct payment processing for Final DCP Payments has changed for those that requested advances **only**. As a result, payment statements may *appear* to be incorrect. But FSA is ensuring that payment amounts issued are correct. To confirm you have received the correct TOTAL amount from the DCP program (advance plus final) add the amount you received from your advance for all farms to the final payment amount received for all farms. This number should be the same as the number you would get if you add the amount from all your CCC-509Bs together. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. 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. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land. Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought, or if Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to qualifying fire. FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by **December 10, 2009**. Late filed applications for LFP **cannot** be approved.

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (feed grain equivalent for adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011
- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land. Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at the office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Signup, for producers with eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 14, 2009**. An application for payment shall be filed no later than **January 30, 2010**. Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than **January 30, 2010**.

There are **no** late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. **Physical losses will be compensated at 60 percent of the actual replacement cost of the honey bees or honey bee hives.** Please call the office for more information.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

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 new 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. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement is available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

Value-Added Producer Grants

Rural Development (RD) is urging farmers and business owners to apply for some of the \$18 million grant money available nationwide to help add value to the commodities they produce. Application period closes **November 30, 2009**. Priority will be given to small/medium sized farms operating as a family farm. Applicants must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant requested. Please contact RD at (908)735-0737 to apply, or for more info visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

Once a facility is qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments for up to two (2) years. The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost.

An application must be submitted to the FSA office before the eligible material is sold and delivered. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering signup for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through **January 14, 2010**. CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers who have achieved a high level of stewardship on their farm or woodlot to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

CSP is available on private agricultural lands and nonindustrial private forest lands. The two possible payments types are- an annual payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities, and a supplemental payment for participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

To apply for CSP, potential participants are encouraged to use the self-screening checklist first to determine program suitability. The checklist is available on the NRCS Web site and at NRCS field offices. Applicants who apply ahead of the deadline will have the greatest flexibility in reviewing their options with NRCS using the Conservation Measurement Tool. For additional information please call the NRCS office at (908)852-2576, ext. 3 or visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp.

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Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00 %
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00 %
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00 %
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility	
7-year loan term	3.000 %
10-year loan term	3.375 %
12-year loan term	3.750 %

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 \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

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