



**U.S. Department
of Agriculture**

**Warren-Sussex-Morris
County FSA**

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: (908) 852-2576
Fax: (908) 852-4666
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Hours

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

Staff

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

County Committee

Scott Ashley
Carl Sigler
Holly Sytsema
Robert De Block
James Smith

**County Committee meets
the last Monday of month
at 9:30am**

IMPORTANT DATES:

- June 1 - DCP/ACRE signup deadline
- June 1 - last day to request a recon
- June 15 - Forms must be returned to IRS
- June 15 - COC member nomination begins
- July 5 - Office closed for Independence Day
- July 15 - Acreage reporting deadline
- Aug 1 - NAP closing date for strawberries
- Aug 2 - COC nomination deadline



FSA NEWSLETTER

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

County committees 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. The nomination period begins **June 15, 2010**. All nominations must be received by **August 2, 2010**.

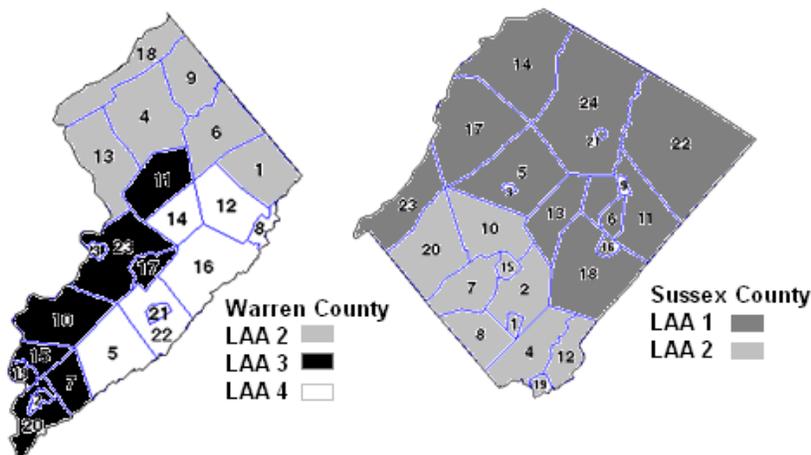
To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 2, 2010**.

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.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning **November 5, 2010**. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by **December 6, 2010**. Ballots will be counted in the office on **December 9, 2010 at 9:30am**. The newly elected committee member will take office **January 1, 2011**.

The Hackettstown Office County Committee is made up of five (5) producers, each representing a Local Administrative Area (LAA). The Local Administrative Area up for election this year is **LAA#5. LAA #5 is made up of Morris, Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Passaic Counties.**

LAA County Boundary Map



**LAA 5 Includes all of
Morris, Bergen,
Hudson, Essex, and
Passaic Counties**

The election of agricultural producers to the FSA county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.



Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs



The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental

Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP. To be eligible for SURE, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. To qualify, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

NAP coverage closing dates are as follows:

August 1, 2010 - strawberries

September 1, 2010 - grass Sod, fin fish, Christmas Trees

September 30, 2010 - barley, clover, grass hay, mixed forages, rye, wheat

November 20, 2010 - apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, nectarines, onions & scallions, peaches pears, plums

December 31, 2010 - asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, greens & herbs, horseradish, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radishes

March 15, 2011 - beans, Brussel sprouts, cantaloupes, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, oats, okra, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum, soybeans, squash, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, yams, tomatillos, tomatoes, watermelon

When you come in for acreage reporting, you can also sign a NAP application for coverage! Service fees must be provided when the application is filed. For more information please call the office.

Adjusted Gross Income

The USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the IRS by **June 15** to avoid interruption of program benefits. Forms are **NOT** to be mailed to the FSA Office. Forms may be obtained from FSA, NRCS, or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainse rvlet>.



Acreage Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA 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.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are due in the office by the earlier of May 31, 2010 for small grains and **July 15, 2010** for all other crops. If crops are planted after the aforementioned deadline, they must be reported within fifteen (15) calendar days of planting. For Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops **ONLY**, the final date for reporting any specific crop acreage for which NAP assistance may be paid is the earlier of the following: the established acreage reporting date listed above, or, fifteen (15) calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

The office is currently scheduling appointments for acreage reporting for producers that have reported acreage in the past. You will be notified via postcard of the appointment date and time that has been set up for you. Please notify the office as soon as possible if you will be unable to make your established appointment. Producers who have not previously reported acreage to the office may not receive a postcard, but can call to schedule an appointment to report.

NAP Production Reporting

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) participants must file production records with the office for individual crops to establish an approved NAP yield. NAP participants must certify to their production and report acreage on a yearly basis to keep yield up-to-date. If records are required to be submitted, they must be reliable or verifiable and show crop disposition. Production certification and/or records for 2009 must be submitted by **July 15, 2010**. Prior year's production may also be submitted by this deadline.

Foreign Investors who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in US agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the US Secretary of Agriculture. The reporting requirement became law in late 1978 when the President signed the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA). The data gained from these disclosures will be utilized in the preparation of periodic reports to the President and Congress concerning the effect of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities. Failure to report could result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

Who must Report:

- Foreign individuals
- Foreign Organizations
- Foreign Governments
- US Organizations – if significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments

Definition of Significant Interest or Substantial Control

- A direct or indirect interest of 10 percent or more held by a single foreign individual, organization or government.
- A direct or indirect collective interest of 10 percent or more held by a group of foreign individuals, organizations, or governments, acting in concert.
- A direct or indirect collective interest of 50 percent or more held by a group of foreign individuals, organizations, or governments, not acting in concert.

What to Report?

- Each tract of agricultural land in the United States, its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report.
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

When to Report?

Foreign persons, buying or selling land after February 2, 1979, must report the transaction within 90 days of the date of the transaction. Report to the Farm Service Agency Office in which the land is located. Attorney, real estate brokers, farm manager, banks, holdings companies, and agents can report on behalf of foreign investors. For land located in Warren, Sussex, Morris, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic or Essex Counties, please call (908) 852-2576, option 2 for assistance.

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**Selected Interest Rates
for June 2010**

Farm Operating - Direct	3.125 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125 %
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 %
Marketing Assistance Loans	
Farm Storage Facility	
7-year loan term	3.00 %
10-year loan term	3.625%
12-year loan term	3.875%

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.