



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

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Fax: (908) 852-4666  
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Hours

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

Staff

Lindsay Caragher, 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:

- July 5 - Office closed for Independence Day
- July 15 - Acreage reporting deadline
- Aug 1 - NAP closing date for strawberries
- Aug 2 - COC nomination deadline
- Sept 1 - NAP closing date for grass Sod, fin fish, Christmas trees
- Sept 6 - Office closed for Labor Day
- Sept 30 - NAP closing date for barley, clover, grass hay, mixed forages, rye, wheat



# 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 began **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.**

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.



## Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2010 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. For more information about the spot check selection procedure, contact the office.

## 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.

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

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.

## **Emergency Loans**

Farm Service Agency Emergency loans are available for physical losses caused by excessive snow, high winds, flash flooding, and flooding that occurred from Feb. 23, 2010 thru March 1, 2010. Bergen, Passaic & Sussex counties are eligible, for Administrator's Physical Loss Notification coded N1003. Applications will be accepted thru **Nov. 8, 2010**.

Emergency Loans are also available for losses caused by severe storms, and flooding that occurred from March 12, 2010 thru April 15, 2010. Warren & Morris counties are included in the eligible area for the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration coded M1897. Please call Ginny Brophy in our office at (908) 852-2576, ext. 110 for more information. Applications will be accepted thru **January 7, 2011**.

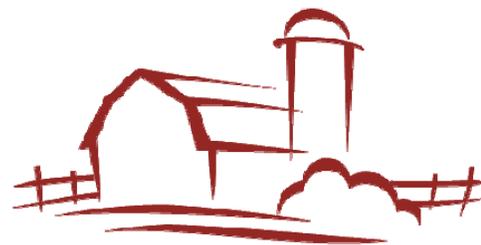
## **Help Available to Stressed Farmers**

Recently, the economy, inclement weather, and other factors have hurt some farming operations around the country. These events can push a producer to the emotional breaking point. Watching your livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers, especially for those whose income is solely dependent on agriculture.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

This service is not affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture.



## 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. Failure to report timely will result in a late file fee being assessed. 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.

## Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on New Jersey farms. **Be careful.** FSA employees care about our customers. *Remember to:* Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

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<b>Selected Interest Rates for July 2010</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875 %
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	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility	
7-year loan term	2.75 %
10-year loan term	3.25 %
12-year loan term	3.50 %

**TAP Signup Continues**

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) signup for orchardists and nursery tree growers opened May 10, 2010. The program helps orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Trees grown for pulp or timber are not eligible. Eligibility requirements can be at the TAP website, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, or by calling the FSA office.

**Transition Incentives**

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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