



NEWSLETTER



County Committee Elections

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) #5 starting on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on **December 6, 2010**. Ballots will be counted on December 9, 2010 at 9:30 AM at the Hackettstown Farm Service Agency Office. The following individual has met the eligibility requirements to run for the County Committee this election period. One individual has been nominated the LAA#5 election.

Scott Ashley has been nominated in Local Administrative Area #5, Morris County to serve as COC member for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2011. Mr. Ashley currently produces vegetables and field corn, raises turkeys and assists in operating a retail store where farm fresh crops are sold. Mr. Ashley is an active member on the Morris County Board of Agriculture and is willing to serve on the County Committee if elected.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted a CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form" and/or CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity". Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Crop Assistance Program

The Crop Assistance Program (CAP) administered through FSA will provide disaster aid to producers whose rice, upland cotton, soybean and sweet potato production were affected by excessive moisture and related conditions that occurred in 2009. Eligible producers must farm in counties with a 2009 Secretarial Disaster Declaration, which includes Sussex and Warren Counties. Producers may be eligible for assistance if they suffered from a five (5) percent or greater loss for one or more eligible crops in 2009. Producers must self-certify that they have met the loss threshold; however as a condition of the application, producers agree that they have verifiable or reliable production evidence to support the certification. Producer certifications of loss are subject to FSA spot-check. CAP payments will be calculated by multiplying the producer's eligible acres for 2009 by the per-acre payment rate established for the crop. Payment rates are as follows: long grain rice - \$31.93; medium/short grain rice - \$52.46; upland cotton - \$17.70; soybeans - \$15.62; and sweet potatoes - \$155.41. The application period has opened and applications will be accepted through Thursday, **December 9, 2010**.

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA Office

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: (908) 852-2576
Fax: (908) 852-4666

Hours

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

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

County Office Staff

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

County Committee

Scott Ashley
Carl Sigler
Holly Sytsema
Robert De Block
James Smith

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Nov 5 - COC Ballots Mailed to eligible voters in LAA#5
- Nov 11 - Office Closed Veterans Day
- Nov 20 - NAP Closing Date: apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, nectarines, onions & scallions, peaches pears, plums
- Nov 25 - Office Closed Thanksgiving Day

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. Signup for 2011 coverage is currently underway.

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, listed below. 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.

Remaining 2011 NAP coverage closing dates are as follows:

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

Remember: service fees must be provided when the application is filed. For more information please call the office.



Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, FSA and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the office or visit the following website for detailed information:

https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/using_pcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm

New Financial Management Web Page Available for Producers

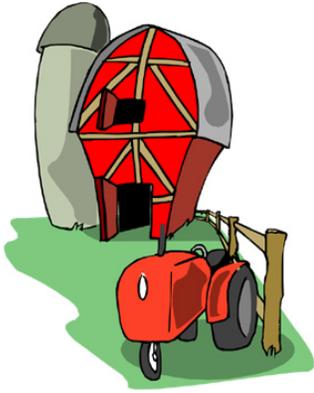
Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page which allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. View the Financial Management webpage at, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

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.

When to Report?

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.

Acres Reporting

To be eligible for most FSA program benefits, planted crops must be reported to the office by the final reporting dates. Fall and spring seeded small grains, including wheat, barley, oats, and rye must be reported by **May 31, 2011**. To ensure that you do not forget this deadline, call the office as soon as planting is completed to schedule an appointment.

Farm Records Changes

Now is the time to begin thinking about potential changes to your farming operation. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you have added or dropped land, or if you would like to request a reconstitution.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact Virginia Brophy at (908) 852-2576, extension 110, for more details and assistance in applying.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010

Farm Operating - Direct	2.00 %
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loans	4.125 %
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	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility	
7-year loan term	1.875 %
10-year loan term	2.500 %
12-year loan term	2.750 %

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) BCAP provides incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and cultivation of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. BCAP provides the following assistance:

- **Matching payments of eligible materials** - Provides for matching payments to eligible material owners at a rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by a qualified biomass conversion facility, in an amount up to \$45 per dry ton. An eligible material owner may be a producer of an eligible crop or a person or entity with the legal right to collect or harvest eligible material. By law matching payments may be made to eligible material owners for a maximum of two years.
- **Establishment payments** - Producers in designated project areas can receive up to 75 percent of the costs of establishing a perennial crop. This does not include equipment. Annual crops are not eligible. (Annual crops, however, are eligible for annual payments.)
- **Annual payments** - Biomass producers in BCAP project areas can receive annual payments up to 5 years for herbaceous biomass (annual and perennial) and up to 15 years for woody biomass (annual and perennial).

Please call the office for additional information on this program.

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.