



March 2011

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA Office

101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: (908) 852-2576

Fax: (908) 852-4666

Hours of Operation

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

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

County Office Staff

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

County Committee

Scott Ashley
Robert DeBlock
Carl Sigler
James Smith
Holly Sytsema

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 15 - NAP Closing Date:
beans, Brussel sprouts,
cantaloupes, celery, corn,
cucumbers, eggplant,
honeydew, oats, okra, peppers,
pumpkins, sorghum, soybeans,
squash, sunflowers, sweet
potatoes & yams, tomatillos,
tomatoes, watermelon
- April 8 - ALAP Signup Ends
- May 31 - Small Grains
Reporting Deadline

CRP General Signup

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on **March 14, 2011**, and continue through **April 15, 2011**. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at the FSA Office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

FSA administers the CRP program and will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) which shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general signup, CRP's continuous signup program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land.

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment Program

Domestic asparagus producers may sign up for compensation due to marketing losses resulting from imports during the 2004 through 2007 crop years. Producers may apply for compensation through April 8, 2011.

The Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment Program (ALAP) provides a one-time payment to eligible asparagus producers. Maximum per pound payment rates are \$1.06 per pound for fresh market asparagus and \$1.08 per pound for asparagus marketed for processing. Payments to asparagus producers will be calculated for each asparagus farm operation based on their 2003 marketed production quantities. Eligible producers must also have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in commercial markets in the U.S. during both of the 2003 and 2007 crop years. A producer that did not harvest asparagus in 2007 does not meet that eligibility requirement. Please call the office to set up an appointment for sign-up or if you have any questions.

Risk Management Purchase Requirement

The 2008 Farm Bill created five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

To be eligible for SURE, TAP and ELAP, 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.

To be eligible for SURE, crop insurance or NAP coverage is **not** required for crops that are **not** of *economic significance* or crops where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm. Please call the office for more information on the importance of purchasing insurance as it relates to FSA programs.

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PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Farm Service Agency
 PERMIT G-96

| Selected FLP Interest Rates for March 2011 | |
|--|--------|
| Farm Operating – Direct | 2.50 % |
| Farm Ownership & Conservation Loans | 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 % |

Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current wintry conditions. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Determining Eligibility and Yields for Grain Sorghum Varieties

Each year, grain sorghum varieties are reviewed and updated to determine eligibility and yield information for loans and LDPs. Producers are required to provide documentation, such as seed tickets and invoices, for grain sorghum (dual purpose varieties) harvested as other than grain to substantiate the variety planted and harvested. The following categories will be used to determine eligibility of grain sorghum (dual purpose varieties) for 2011 and subsequent crop years:

- *Category I* – Non-Tanning Sorghum for grain or silage/hay is eligible regardless of percentage of grain yield
- *Category II* – Tannin Sorghum for grain or silage/hay is eligible regardless of percentage or grain yield, but if harvested, grain must be identity-preserved and reported
- *Category III* – Tannin Sorghum used for pasture is not eligible for LDPs or any programs

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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.