



May 2011

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, SFLO
John Snearowski, PT
Diandra Brunstetter, PT
Debbie Crisman, PT
Megan Everswick, FLOT

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:

- May 27 - BCAP Project Area Proposal Deadline
- May 30 - Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 - Small Grains Reporting Deadline
- June 1 - Reconstitution Deadline
- June 1 - DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline

Acreege 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, 2011** for small grains and **July 15, 2011** for all other crops. If crops are planted after the aforementioned deadlines, 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 immediately 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 the office to schedule an appointment to report.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution, or recon, is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **June 1, 2011** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

DCP and ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program will continue through **June 1, 2011**. The Election to participate in ACRE must also be completed by June 1, 2011. Late-file enrollment is available for DCP and ACRE.

BCAP Proposal Deadline

Project area proposals for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) must be submitted to the New Jersey Farm Service Agency state office by close of business, **May 27, 2011**. BCAP provides incentives to eligible farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and production of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. BCAP project areas are specific geographic areas where producers grow eligible biomass crops. Producers then receive annual payments for growing those crops. For more information, visit the BCAP website at www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap. The BCAP project area proposal submission form is available online at BCAP Form 20 (PDF, http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/bcap_form_20.pdf)

2011 FSA County Committee Elections

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 committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Timetable

Now: Nominations are being accepted

Aug 1: Deadline to submit nomination forms

Nov 4: Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec 5: Deadline to return ballots

Dec 8: Counting of Ballots

Jan 1: Newly elected members take office

Nominations Period is now open

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at the office and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the office by close of business **Aug. 1, 2011**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Who Can Hold Office

A person must meet the following basic eligibility criteria to hold office:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a COC election
- Reside in the LAA in which a candidate

Have not been:

- Removed or disqualified as county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers/landowners of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible. If you are unsure if you are eligible to vote, contact the office. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with FSA to establish an approved yield for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). If this is your first year participating in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and must show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**



NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the CCC-576 is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by NAP and/or crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 in the FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Disaster Programs Available

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Please call the office if you have been affected by any of the recent flooding other natural disaster, as you may be eligible for disaster related benefits.



Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

NRCS Signup

Sign up for the Organic Initiative has been extended through **May 20, 2011**. NRCS has extended the opportunity for certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic production in New Jersey to apply for assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative. Applications for assistance to implement resource conservation practices received by **May 20, 2011**, will be considered for current year funding.

Apply Now for Assistance for Conservation Activity Plan. NRCS in New Jersey is accepting applications for the 2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program's Conservation Activity Plans (EQIP-CAPs) through **May 20, 2011**. Contracts will be awarded on or before June 30, 2011. The program offers financial assistance for producers interested in obtaining the services of a certified professional to develop plans for agricultural energy management, forest management, comprehensive nutrient management, fish & wildlife habitat management, and support for organic transition.

Please contact NRCS at (908)852-2576, option 3 for more information.

Warren-Sussex-Morris County FSA
 101 Bilby Road, BLDG 1-H
 Hackettstown, NJ 07840



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

**Selected FLP Interest Rates
 for May 2011**

Farm Operating – Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loans	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 %

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Adjudication Process**, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;
- **African American Farmers Settlement Agreement (Pigford II)**, please visit: www.blackfarmcase.com or call 1-866-950-5547 or 1-866-472-7826;
- **Native Americans Farmers Settlement Agreement (Keepseagle v Vilsack)**, please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

All media calls can be forwarded to the
 USDA, Office of Communication at (202)720-4623.

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, audiotope, 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.