



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

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
Megan Everswick, FLO
John Snearowski, PT
Diandra Brunstetter, PT
Debbie Crisman, PT

County Committee

Scott Ashley
Robert DeBlock
Carl Sigler
James Smith
Holly Sytsema

The County Committee meets the last Monday of the month at 9:30AM.

As meeting dates and times are
subject to change, please call
ahead if you plan on attending.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 1 - NAP Closing Date:
Nursery
- May 28 - Office Closed Memorial
Day Observance
- May 31 - Small Grains Reporting
Deadline
- June 1 - DCP/Acre signup ends,
Reconstitution Deadline, 2010
SURE signup ends
- June 15 - COC Nomination Period
Opens

NAP Nursery Deadline

Tuesday, **May 1, 2012** is the deadline to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on nursery. NAP is available for nurseries that sell less than 50% wholesale.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. NAP provides 50% coverage on crops where a Federal Crop Insurance policy is not available. 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 for coverage, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

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, 2012** for small grains and **July 15, 2012** 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 crop acreage with NAP coverage 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, 2012** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

The deadline to enroll in either the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or the 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is **June 1, 2012**. If you have not signed up, please call the office to schedule an appointment.



Supplemental Revenue

Assistance Program (SURE)

Sign-up for 2010 losses is currently open and will run through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Please call the office for more information or to set up an appointment to sign-up.

FSA Adopting GovDelivery

The Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Partial disbursement of loan amount is available. The partial disbursement would be issued after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement would be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement is 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Honey
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about the FSFL program, please call the office.

2012 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.

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/sa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the office by close of business **Aug. 1, 2012**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

Eligible voters from the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) up for election can be nominated to run. This year's election will include LAA #2 and LAA #3.

LAA #2 is made up of Southern Sussex County including the towns, townships and/or boroughs of Andover, Byram, Freedom, Green, Hampton, Hopatcong, Newton, Stanhope, and Stillwater. As well as Northern Warren County including the townships and/or boroughs of Allamuchy, Blirstown, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick, Knowlton and Pahaquarry.

LAA #3 is made up of Western Warren County including the towns, townships and/or boroughs of Alpha, Belvidere, Greenwich, Harmony, Hope, Lopatcong, Oxford, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong and White.

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.

Election Timetable

June 15: Nominations are being accepted

Aug 1: Deadline to submit nomination forms

Nov 5: Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec 3: Deadline to return ballots

Jan 1: Newly elected members take office



Selected FLP Interest Rates for May 2012	
Farm Operating – Direct	1.50 %
Farm Ownership & Conservation Loans	3.50 %
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 %

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.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your 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, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination, write 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.