



NEWSLETTER



January 2013

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

- Jan 1 - Office Closed: New Year's Day
- Jan 7 - ECP Signup Deadline
- Jan 15 - Reporting Deadline for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Peaches
- Jan 21 - Office Closed: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Feb 18 - Office Closed: Washington's Birthday

Emergency Conservation Program Signup

Signup for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) in Warren, Sussex and Morris Counties will end on **January 7, 2013** for damage sustained from Hurricane Sandy. In order to be eligible, the natural disaster must have created new conservation problems, which, if not treated: would impair or endanger the land, materially affect the productive capacity of the land, represent unusual damage which is not likely to recur frequently in the same area, and be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Emergency practices eligible for up to 75% cost-share include:

- Removing debris from farmland and farm access roadways,
- Restoring permanent fencing utilized for livestock inclusion/exclusion, and
- **Restoring deer fencing is also now available**

Producers **must** contact the county office in person, to request ECP cost share **before** starting a practice. Producers who start a practice before requesting ECP funding may be ineligible to receive cost share. Please give the office a call to set up an appointment.

COC Election Results

Congratulations to Robert DeBlock and James Smith who were reelected to represent farmers on the FSA County Committee. Both Mr. DeBlock and Mr. Smith were reelected to their second consecutive term. FSA appreciates the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. Alternates were selected in both LAA's. Michael Sullivan will serve as first alternate for LAA#2 and Donald Duckworth Jr. will serve as first alternate for LAA#3. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

IRS Form 1099 Reporting Changes

Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, Kansas City will not generate and mail IRS Form 1099-G and/or IRS Form 1099-MISC to producers if the total of reportable payments for each tax identification number is less than \$600. However, if voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding was withheld from a payment and total payments are less than \$600, then the appropriate IRS 1099 form will be issued. Beginning with calendar year 2012 IRS reporting, Kansas City will also be issuing one IRS Form 1099-G and/or one IRS Form 1099-MISC to each multi-county producer whose total reportable payments for each tax identification number are equal to or greater than \$600. Multi-county producer IRS forms will use the producer's mailing address associated with the lowest State number and then the lowest county number within that State identified as receiving payments for the reportable calendar year. Producers receiving less than \$600.00 in combined payments need to consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

NEW Acreage Reporting Deadlines

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. Acreage reporting deadlines have changed. The remaining acreage reporting deadlines are as follows.

<i>Crop</i>	Jan 15, 2013	June 15, 2013	July 15, 2013	Aug 15, 2013
Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Peaches	X			
Spring Forage Seeding		X		
Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Grain Sorghum, Oats, Soybeans, Tomatoes and all other crops including CRP acres.			X	
Processing beans				X

*If crops are not planted by the aforementioned dates, acreage reports must be completed with fifteen (15) calendar days of planting in order to be considered timely.

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.