

May 2013



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**Warren-Sussex-Morris
County FSA Office**

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Scott Ashley, Chairperson

Hurricane Sandy Assistance Announced

On April 23, 2013, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced an important package of disaster assistance valued at \$209 million to help farmers, land owners and communities in affected states recover from the effects of Superstorm Sandy.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) program will contribute \$15 million to producers to help remove debris from farmland, restore livestock fences and conservation structures, and grade and shape farmland damaged by the natural disaster. FSA county committees determine eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and considering the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if unattended, would impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land's productive capacity; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type 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.

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) will provide \$23 million in payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by the

James Smith, Vice-Chairperson
 Robert DeBlock, Member
 Carl Sigler, Member
 Holly Sytsema, Member

natural disaster. The land must have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees) and; be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land. In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and materially affect future use of the land.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2013	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375 %
Farm Ownership	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	2.375 %
Marketing Assistance Loans	1.125 %
Farm Storage Facility	
7-year loan term	1.250 %
10-year loan term	1.875 %
12-year loan term	2.125 %

ECP and EFRP participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency practices. Qualified limited-resource producers may receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved ECP practices. FSA has been collecting ECP and EFRP applications in anticipation of the funding becoming available and will begin providing assistance immediately to eligible landowners. Applications will continue to be accepted through **May 31, 2013**.

Appointments are necessary so please call the office if you are interested in applying.

Acres 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 since last year. Please review the remaining acreage reporting deadlines for 2013.

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

<i>Crop</i>	June 15, 2013	July 15, 2013	Aug 15, 2013
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

Producers that reported last spring will not be receiving a postcard this year due to budget constraints. If you have completed planting please call the office to set up an appointment in the next coming weeks. Others will be notified via phone call of their designated appointment date and time. Producers reporting production for the first time will need to contact the office to set up an appointment.

Farm Record Changes

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to the FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, adding entities to your operation, and/or changing bank accounts please contact the office to update your file. Failure to provide this information in advance of your acreage reporting appointment may result in increased appointment length. Please assist the office in providing this information in advance of your appointment.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

Sign-up for DCP and ACRE are currently underway. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **August 2, 2013**, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end **June 3, 2013**. The 2013 DCP

and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

If you would to set up an appointment for sign-up, please call the office. Sign up for most producers will take place during acreage reporting in June and July. Those interested in ACRE should call the office as soon as possible to avoid missing the June 3rd deadline.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. For more information or assistance preparing and process application forms, please contact Megan Everswick.

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