

June 2013



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

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County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA County Committee (COC). The North Jersey COC is made up of five members each representing a different LAA. Each year, an election is held in at least one LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year LAA #5, which consists of Morris, Bergen, Essex,

County Committee Members:
Scott Ashley, Chairperson
James Smith, Vice-Chair
Robert DeBlock
Carl Sigler
Holly Sytsema

Hudson and Passaic Counties, is up for election. Eligible voters from LAA #5 can be nominated to run.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. More information regarding LAA's and the election process can be found by contacting the office. The nomination form is available at the office and online.

- English FSA-669A:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf
- Spanish FSA-669A:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_es_130405v01.pdf

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. Acreage reporting deadlines have changed since last year. The following acreage reporting deadlines remain for 2013:

- **June 15:** Spring Forage Seeding
- **July 15:** Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, Grain Sorghum, Oats, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and all other crops including CRP acres
- **Aug 15:** Processing Beans

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.

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.

2011 SURE Program Deadline

The last day to submit SURE applications for 2011 crop losses is **June 7, 2013**. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue. To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/. Please call the office to set up an appointment for signup.

Weather Related Crop Damage

The office asks that you report any weather related damage to crops and livestock as soon as possible. This information is used to determine if a Disaster Declaration should be requested for specific counties. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate counties as disaster areas to make emergency loans (EM) to producers suffering losses in those counties and in counties that are contiguous to a designated county. In addition to EM eligibility, other emergency assistance programs, such as FSA disaster assistance programs,

have historically used disaster designations as an eligibility requirement trigger.

Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year. All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Contributions*

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- Active personal labor,
- Active personal management,
- A combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

*Note: There are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

The office asks that you report any weather related crop damage as soon as possible.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

Please contact the office for more information.

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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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