

August 2013



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

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Robert DeBlock
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COC Meetings are held the last
Monday of the month at
8:30AM. If you plan on
attending, please call confirm
date and time.

Crop Reporting Deadline Extended

Farmers and landowners have an additional 18 calendar days to submit their annual report of acreage to the FSA office with the deadline extended from Monday, July 15, 2013, to Friday, August 2, 2013. Only the FSA reporting deadline has been extended. The acreage reporting requirement for crop insurance has not changed and remains July 15.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP); the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE); the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistant Program (NAP).

Acreage reports for FSA are considered timely this year when filed at the county office by the new applicable final crop reporting deadline of August 2, 2013. Crops planted after this date must be reported within fifteen calendar days of planting. Please call the office immediately if you have not yet fully reported your acreage.

DCP Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 1, 2013, deadline. Late-file provisions are also available, please call the office for more information.

The general program provisions remain unchanged from 2012. If discussed during your signup appointment, please make every effort to obtain any necessary owner's signatures as soon as possible.

If you have not yet signed your 2013 DCP contracts, please contact the

office to schedule an appointment.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to the FSA Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from the FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

Actively Engaged in Farming

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management;
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Please give the office a call for more information regarding actively engaged determinations.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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 seven, 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 U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 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.

Interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans approved for August 2013 are as follows, 1.500 percent with seven-year loan terms; 2.125 percent with 10-year loan terms, and; 2.375 percent with 12-year loan terms.

For more information about FSFL, please call the office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Financial Assistance Program (FAP)

Section 524(b), Agricultural Management Assistance, of the Federal Crop Insurance Act states that the Secretary shall provide financial assistance to producers in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, **New Jersey**, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) will provide a fixed premium reduction of \$225.00 per crop policy for eligible producers. If the total producer-paid premium per crop policy is less than \$225.00, the amount of premium reduction will be capped at 100 percent of producer-paid premium for the crop policy.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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