



South Carolina State FSA Newsletter



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Laurie C. Lawson, State Executive Director, South Carolina Farm Service Agency

After serving as State Executive Director of the South Carolina Farm Service Agency from 1993 until 2001, I am pleased that I have been appointed to serve again in this important position. It is an honor to serve farmers, landowners, and rural South Carolina. This agency has an outstanding, well trained work force. We plan to do all that we can to be friendly, courteous, efficient, and productive while always abiding by the laws of this wonderful country where we are privileged to live.

We have many programs that have become available because of the latest Farm Bill. Please go in to your local county office and let our good employees explain the program benefits to you. It is now time to make your farm plans for 2010 so, don't wait until you get too busy in the spring. Come on in now and get everything done that you need to do. Please pay particular attention to the dates your applications for the different programs must be signed. If you come in too late for your sign up there is very little that we can do to help you. We do not want you to miss out on any benefits that you are entitled to!

2010 NAP Application Closing Date For Spring Annually Planted Crops

Producers in need of insurance coverage for Spring and Fall annually planted crops under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) have until Feb 28th to apply for the following crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available.

Beans, Cantaloupes, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, Honeydews, Okra, Peanuts, Peas, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squash, Sunflowers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Watermelons

NAP coverage for 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

2009 Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including losses because of blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically, Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

A producer must file a notice of loss no later than 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer. An application for payment must be filed no later than January 30, 2010. Please contact your local county FSA for more information.

Husband and Wife Joint Operations and Payment Limitations Rules

A husband and wife joint farming operation under the previous farm bill required that the husband and wife be combined limiting them to one payment limitation. Now, under the 2008 farm bill, each spouse may have their separate payment limitation. Here's how it works. If each spouse is providing their proportionate share of capital, land, or equipment or any combination of the three, only one spouse is required to prove the additional requirement of active personal labor and active personal management. We call this being actively engaged in farming status. All of the contributions of capital, land, or equipment must be at risk of loss by both spouses in the joint farming operation. If you have an operation similar to this, please contact your local FSA County Office for additional information on qualifying requirements.

Dates to Remember

December 25, 2009	Offices Closed
January 1, 2010	Offices Closed
January 18, 2010	Offices Closed
January 30, 2010	ELAP losses
February 15, 2010	Offices Closed
February 28, 2010	Losses under NAP

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans cannot be made until a complete application is received.

DECEMBER INTEREST RATES

Farm Operating	2.875%
Farm Operating – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership	4.625%
Farm Ownership – Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Beginning Farmer	1.500%
Down Payment	
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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