

## Farm Service Agency

### Monmouth ~ Mercer ~ Middlesex County FSA

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or visit us at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

~ Farm Service Agency ~ Natural Resource Conservation Service ~

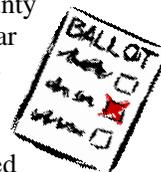
**Service Center Newsletter**

**June 10, 2008**

**Hours: M-F; 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

### County Committee Elections

- For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election. Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.



### Acresage

Reporting— It is that time of year again! Appointments are being taken now for 2008 Crop Reporting. The deadline to report is **July 15, 2008**. Acresage reporting is required for the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), Commodity Loans, Conservation Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments, and the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. Please call the office now to schedule an appointment.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 1, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must not have been removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee; removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony; or dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

### Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

— If you are a participant in the NAP program, and you have not provided your previous year(s) production figures, the final date to report 2007 or earlier crop production is **June 30, 2008**. All production records must be summarized and may be producer certified without supplying original receipts if done prior to the deadline. Keep in mind that certifications must be supported by records and receipts, and would need to be provided to FSA in the case of a spot check. By reporting production records timely you will ensure that the highest possible benefits are received. Any losses must be reported to our office and a Notice-of-Loss (CCC-576) filed within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or the date the damage became apparent.



**Disaster Signup Continues** - Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. In designated disaster counties producers can still receive assistance under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) until July 18, 2008. Later this summer FSA will begin making payments to producers for quality losses under CDP. For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

**2008 Compliance** - Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

**Farmers Against Hunger Program** - Farmers Against Hunger is a unique hunger-relief organization dedicated to collecting and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables from New Jersey farms to local organizations with a meal or pantry program. The program, started in 1996, now has approximately 50 farms that donate produce regularly, as well as 5 grocery stores and produce suppliers who donate during the winter months so the program can continue year-round. Since 1996 Farmers Against Hunger has collected and distributed **over 15 million pounds** of food, all at no charge! There are two drivers and two trucks, with one being refrigerated. During the busy harvest months of July through November it is not uncommon to collect and deliver in excess of 50,000 lbs. of fresh produce to food banks, soup kitchens, etc. Farm donors are located throughout much of New Jersey, from Warren County to Salem County. Farmers only need to make a phone call to the Program Coordinator or the driver, who will schedule a pick-up at the farmer's convenience. For more information about Farmers Against Hunger, call Judy Grignon at (609) 462-9691.



**Dates to Remember!**

June 15, 2008 – County Committee Nomination forms (FSA-669A) accepted through August 1<sup>st</sup>.

July 15, 2008 – Final day to report 2008 planted acreage without late filing penalties.

Ongoing – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)/Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup.

**Area FSA Committee: Gary Mount, Chairman Richard Bullock, Vice Chairman Thomas Orgo II, Member Terri Tindall, Advisor**

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