

Pennsylvania Farm Service Agency
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Pennsylvania FSA Farm Loan Program continues to provide excellent service to PA Farmers

(Harrisburg, PA), June 1, 2009 -- Pennsylvania has seen a dramatic increase in the delivery of Farm Service Agency loans to producers. According to numbers from the USDA, the Pennsylvania FSA office has funded a total of 723 loans since last October, totaling over \$83.9 million in guaranteed and direct loans. In 2008, the agency funded \$54.3 million in loans for the entire year.

Pennsylvania FSA Acting Director, Susan Myers, says direct operating loans are up 115% from 2008 and guaranteed operating loans are up 185%. The combination of a weak global economy, low milk prices and tighter credit markets has created a large demand for both direct and guaranteed FSA loans. Overall the guaranteed loan usage is up 217% from the 2008 levels.

“FSA is working with large and small family farmers who are interested in farm loans during these difficult economic times,” Myers said. “These loans are used by Pennsylvania producers for operating expenses as well as helping beginning farmers purchase the needed farmland and the many new diversified types of operations that are sprouting up around Pennsylvania.” We are especially excited to see our guaranteed loan usage. In 2008 we closed 103 guaranteed loans for \$20,132,372 and so far we have guaranteed 224 loans for over \$47.8 million.

FSA offers a variety of low interest loan choices for most needs. These include loans for beginning farmers, youth, disaster recovery, operating, farm expansions and farm ownership.

In addition, producers looking to lock in fixed interest rates while rates are low can also take advantage of the FSA guarantee and the secondary market. Besides loans, FSA offers some of the best farm planning and financial counseling in production agriculture.