

July 2017



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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Mary Jo Herbert
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State Executive Director:

[Herni Ann Olsen](#) (Acting)

Farm Loan Chief:

[Kevin P. Murphy](#)

Please contact your [local FSA Office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county

Important Dates:

July 15 - Acreage Reporting
Deadline for most crops

Nominations Open for the 2017 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committee are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County committees may have one or more appointed advisors to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

August 1 - ARCPLC deadline All nomination forms for the 2017 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2017. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Jersey/index.

August 1 - COC Nominations due

Several New Jersey Counties Eligible for Emergency Loans

The New Jersey Counties of Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer and Warren were declared contiguous disaster counties due to drought in Pennsylvania from May 1, 2016 to December 10, 2016. Under this designation, producers with operations in any contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans December 5, 2017.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent.

This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

NRCS to convene Local Work Groups this summer

Participate to help NRCS prioritize conservation focus in your area

State Conservationist Carrie Lindig has initiated an effort to gather input from local stakeholders about how USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can most effectively deliver conservation assistance in New Jersey. NRCS will be holding Local Work Group meetings throughout New Jersey in July and August and is looking for participation in this locally led process.

The locally led conservation effort is the foundation of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) conservation program delivery process. Through these Work Groups, NRCS aims to gather recommendations on local natural resource priorities. These discussions will help direct USDA conservation activities and programs that will coordinate with other Federal, State, tribal, and local

conservation programs. This will help provide a coordinated effort to address conservation concerns specific to the local area.

Convened by the local NRCS District Conservationists, the local work group responsibilities include:

- Identifying the biggest conservation needs in our counties;
- Prioritizing those conservation needs that can be addressed by USDA programs;
- Recommending USDA conservation program application and funding criteria and focus of NRCS funding efforts;
- Assisting NRCS with public outreach and information efforts; and,
- Providing recommendations to the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee based on resource data.

NRCS is seeking a diverse membership from the local community with agricultural interests and an understanding of existing natural resource issues. Lindig invites agricultural producers with crops, livestock, equine, and poultry; owners of nonindustrial private forest land; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and representatives of governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation programs and activities to join one of the four Local Work Group meetings scheduled this summer:

- **Central Jersey Local Work Group Meeting** - Tuesday July 25th, 5-7 PM at the Burlington Soil Conservation District meeting room, 1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Columbus, NJ 08022. This meeting will focus on needs in Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Ocean, Burlington, and Camden Counties. RSVP to Nicole Ciccaglione at nicole.ciccaglione@nj.usda.gov or 609-267- 1639 x 3.
- **Northern Jersey Local Work Group #1 Meeting** - Thursday July 27th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Snyder Research & Extension Farm, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. This meeting will focus on needs in Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Warren, Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, and Essex Counties. RSVP to John Kluthe at john.kluthe@nj.usda.gov or 908-782-4614 x 3.
- **South Jersey Local Work Group Meeting** - Monday August 7th, 2017, 7-9PM at Atlantic County Extension Office 6260 Old Harding Highway Mays Landing, NJ 08330. This meeting will focus on needs in Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties. RSVP to Nick Saumweber at nicholas.saumweber@nj.usda.gov or 856-285-7654.
- **Northern Jersey Local Work Group #2 Meeting** - Tuesday, August 15th at the Warren County Library/Northeast Branch, 40 US Highway 46, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 for, 6-8pm. This meeting will focus on needs in Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Warren, Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, and Essex Counties. RSVP to Dan Mull at dan.mull@nj.usda.gov or 908-852-2576 x3.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the RSVP for each meeting above or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Double-Cropping

Each year, state committees will review and approve or disapprove county committee recommended changes or additions to specific combinations of crops.

Double-cropping is approved when the two specific crops have the capability to be planted and carried to maturity for the intended use, as reported by the producer, on the same acreage within a crop year under normal growing conditions. The specific combination of crops recommended by the county committee must be approved by the state committee.

Double-cropping is approved in New Jersey on a county-by-county basis. [Click here to see the list of approved double -cropping combination for 2017](#) or contact your local FSA Office for a list of approved double-cropping combinations for your county.

A crop following a cover crop terminated according to termination guidelines is approved double cropping and these combinations do not have to be approved by the state committee.

Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be a success. A part of ensuring this success is providing guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial lending institutions. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation;
- Any significant changes to family income or expenses;
- The development of problem situations;
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security. In addition, if a farm loan borrower cannot make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options. For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Marketing Assistance Loans Available for 2017 in New Jersey

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for corn, soybeans (as well as other oil seeds), honey, barley, wheat, grain sorghum, oats, wool, and mohair. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

A producer who is eligible to obtain an MAL, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

To be eligible for an MAL or an LDP, producers must have a beneficial interest in the commodity, in addition to other requirements. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained. For an LDP, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the producer filed [Form CCC-633EZ \(page 1\)](#) in the FSA County Office. For more information, producers should contact their local FSA county office or view the [LDP Fact Sheet](#).

Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).