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MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
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farm Service Agency



Service Center Newsletter . . .

December 14, 2009

Serving



Monmouth,
Mercer &
Middlesex Counties

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www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee

Richard Bullock
Thomas Orgo II
Barry Taylor
Kathy Stattel

*"dedicated to achieving
an economically and
environmentally sound
future for American
Agriculture"*

County Committee Elections – Please join us in congratulating the winners of this year’s County Committee election! The ballots were counted for LAA #1 in a public forum on December 10, 2009 resulting in Richard Bullock being elected as the regular member, and Debra Kauffman as the first alternate. All members and alternates will begin their new term on January 1, 2010.

DCP Signup Continues - Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Marketing Assistance Loans - Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) on grain (barley, corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum) are available to provide interim financing at harvest time to meet cash-flow needs without having to sell commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. MALs are a nine-month loan that can be repaid bushel for bushel as the grain is sold. This is an easy way to receive upfront cash for grain and still have option to use the grain by purchasing it back in bushels as necessary or to sell it at the prevailing market rates and keep the difference.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – FSA’s NAP program provides financial assistance to growers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Producers who have no crop changes from their 2008 NAP contracts will have the option of continuous coverage, meaning that you don’t need to visit the office or fill out any new paperwork - provided that the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. The fee will only need to be sent in, eliminating a trip to the office. The service fee remains the same at \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county with no limit on the number of crops covered, and a

maximum of \$1,250 per multi-county producer. **The next application closing date is December 31, 2009 for asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, greens, herbs, horseradish, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, and turnips.**

Biomass Crop Assistance Program - FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. Matching payments are to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments. Biomass conversion facilities and material owners/producers should contact their FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.





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Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) - The SURE program will provide benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement. To trigger SURE payments at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition OR producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

FSA Emergency Loans - EM's are now available for losses caused by severe storms, with high winds, heavy rainfall, hail, and associated plant diseases that occurred from April 15, 2009, and continuing. Mercer, Monmouth & Middlesex counties are included in the eligible area. Please call Ginny Brophy in the Hackettstown FSA office at (908)852-2576, ext. 110 for more information. Applications will be accepted thru May, 25, 2010.

Form CCC-1099G - A summary (form 1099G) of all earned payments, benefits, or refunds received during the 2009 calendar year is due to be mailed by the end of January. Once received, please check all information for accuracy. If the information provided is incorrect, please call this office. The CCC-1099G is provided as a service to help producers report their taxable income, not to replace the producer's responsibility to report income to the IRS as the FSA cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on an income tax return.

Dates to Remember!

Dec. 25, 2009 - FSA Office closed for Christmas holiday.

Dec. 31, 2009 - Next NAP sales closing date for some 2010 crops.

Jan. 1, 2010 - FSA Office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Jan. 6, 2010 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (9:30 am)



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