



December 2011

## Happy Holidays!!

**DUTCHESS,  
PUTNAM, ULSTER,  
WESTCHESTER  
COUNTY FSA OFFICE**  
2715 Route 44  
Millbrook, NY 12545

845-677-3952 X 2  
845-677-8354 fax

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed for all Federal  
Holidays

### Area FSA County Committee

Robert Perotti  
Thomas Hahn Jr  
Thomas Purdy III  
A William Wilklow  
Severyn J Hasbrouck

### Staff

Cindy Parrotte

**State Executive  
Director**  
James Barber

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Carol Ronne  
845-343-1874

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
<http://dutchessswcd.org>

**NY Farm Net**  
**1-800-547-FARM**

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employer.

## Retirement News

*Dear Producers,*

*After 28+ years with first ASCS and then FSA, I have retired effective December 3, 2011. I thank each and every one of you for making these many years so memorable, and I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful group of people to serve. I have been honored with your friendship throughout the years, and your constant kindness to me and my family will never be forgotten. Now that I have time, I plan on stopping by to visit, so have the coffee on for me! Until then, may you all stay healthy and I hope you are all blessed with a bountiful life. My best to you all, Laura L. Briggs*

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Robert Perotti! Bob was elected to represent farmers from LAA 4 which covers the following townships; Amenia, Dover, Northeast, Pine Plains, Stanford, Unionvale, and Washington. Congratulations also to Thomas L Purdy III! Tim was elected to represent farmers from LAA 5 which covers all of Putnam and Westchester Counties. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking time to complete the election ballot, the county committee system works only because of your participation.

## FSA Adopting GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless newsletter system. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>. **Please share your email address with the county office for our files.**

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up – Deadline June 1, 2012

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Please take the time to review your leases, obtain renewals if they have expired. **If you have acquired new land, please call the office NOW so we can update our records. We will need a copy of the lease for lease land, or proof of ownership for new land purchased.** Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as; Ownership changes, Producer changes (Individuals and Entities), Change in crop shares arrangements.

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, our staff can review payments for accuracy.

### **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) – Deadline June 12, 2012**

The sign-up for 2010 crop losses runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

### **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

### **Bank Account Changes**

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

### **Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed for purchased property. A copy of your lease is required for rented land. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. **Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate. Have you changed your farming operation to an entity such as an Limited Liability Corporation or similar entity, if so, please call the office to update your records.**

### **Farm Loan Programs**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

### **Appeal Process**

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

### **Disaster Assistance Programs**

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)  
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)  
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)  
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program  
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP. Producer's who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, are not required to purchase the catastrophic insurance.

Application sign-up period ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP. **Producers have 90 days from the time a loss is apparent to file an application for TAP.**

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

**Newsletters - Please note that due to budget restraints, our newsletters will no longer be issued monthly.**

USDA Farm Service Agency  
 2715 Route 44  
 Millbrook, NY 12545-5566

**PREORTED STANDARD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**CITY, STATE**  
**PERMIT #XXX**

<b>Selected Interest Rates for December 2011</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	5.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	1.50%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	1.125%

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	DCP Enrollment begins
Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	2012 NAP Application Coverage deadline for beets, burdock, chicory, greens, herbs, leeks, lettuce, onions, radicchio, radishes, scallions, shallots and turnips.
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	NAP Deadline for Spring Seeded Crops; beans, cabbage, eggplant, peas, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, etc.
June 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline for small grains
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	NAP Production reporting deadline