



# NEWSLETTER



June 2011

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

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

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

**Area FSA County  
Committee**

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

**Staff**

Laura Briggs  
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**

## COC Election Nominations

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 4; which covers the following townships; Amenia, Dover, Northeast Pine Plains, Stanford, Unionvale, and Washington, along with LAA 5, which covers all of Putnam and Westchester Counties must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in a FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

## NAP Production records

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

## Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains is June 15, 2011; corn, hay, fruit, etc. is July 15, 2011.

## CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non- insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

**Newsletters** – Can be viewed on the Dutchess County Soil & Water District website @ <http://dutchessswcd.org>

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:

[WWW.farmerclaims.gov](http://WWW.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429;

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:

[WWW.blackfarmercase.com](http://WWW.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547;

Keepseagle – The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:

[WWW.IndianFarmClass.com](http://WWW.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

## Important Budget News

The office operational budget has been greatly reduced from previous year's allocations. In order to better serve you and save money on postage, please supply the office with your email address so we may correspond by email. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

## RMA – 2011 Apple Crop Reports

Risk Management Agency is conducting a limited scope review of 2011 crop year apple policies with reported “fresh” apple acreage written by various approved insurance providers with various counties in New York State. The 2011 apple crop provisions state the insured must report and designate all acreage by type and if you designate fresh apple acreage on the acreage report, you are certifying at least 50% of the production from acreage reported as fresh apple acreage, by unit, was sold as fresh apples in one or more of the four most recent crop years and that you have the records to support such production.

This review is being conducted in order to ascertain whether insured's are meeting the fresh apple record availability requirements to support fresh apple production from acreage reported as “fresh”. These records will be requested if the insurance provider did not already request during the underwriting process.

## Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), CCC-927, CCC-928, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.

### Contributions

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*personal labor, active personal management or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation; \*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

## AGI Verification Process

FSA and NRCS provide producers with consent forms (CCC-927 and/or CCC-928). As required by law, to grant the IRS the authority to provide tax information data to USDA, producers must complete and sign the applicable form and mail directly to the IRS. Failure to file the applicable consent form may result in interruption of program payments.

**USDA Farm Service Agency**  
 2715 Route 44  
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<b>Selected Interest Rates for            June 2011</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	2.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
15 June	Crop Reporting deadline for small grains
15 July	Final crop reporting deadline
15 July	NAP Production reporting deadline
29 July	2009 SURE Program closes
1 Aug	COC Nomination Due in County Office
1 Aug	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
1 Sept.	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline