

Serving 

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County Committee

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an economically and
environmentally sound
future for American
Agriculture"*

Buy-In Waiver For Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

- The 2008 Act requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for this new disaster assistance.



Every producer whose crops, including grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or NAP may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is due no later than **Sept. 16, 2008**, as required by the 2008 Act. Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, and, therefore, are not required to pay the buy-in fee. The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility only for either the catastrophic risk protection insurance (CAT) or NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP.

New Farm Bill Program Information Meeting – There will be a free producer seminar to introduce the new program changes included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Please join the FSA staff at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at the FSA office (4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold). The meeting will cover details of the DCP, Disaster, and Conservation guidelines. Be sure to contact the



office if you are interested in attending!

Sign up underway for the 2008 DCP - Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate). For all eligibility requirements or additional information, contact your local office.

New NAP Service Fee Rate Schedule – The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008, increased the administrative service fees for the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program

(NAP) from \$100 to \$250 per crop, from \$300 to \$750 maximum per county, and from \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties. If you suspect serious crop damage, and in order to benefit from your NAP coverage, you must report it to our office and file a notice of loss within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. That way we can send someone out to make an inspection while the crop is still in the field. As a reminder, the deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2009 Strawberries is August 1, 2008. The final date to purchase NAP coverage for a 2009 policy on Christmas Trees, Fin Fish, Flowers and Grass Sod is September 1, 2008. To cover Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, and Rye the sales closing date is September 30, 2008.

FSA Farm Loans - The new Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership loans and direct Operating Loans has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. In the Farm Ownership program, the maximum loan-term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present interest rate. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan.



Dates to Remember!

August 1, 2008 – Final day to accept County Committee Nomination forms (FSA-669A).

August 6, 2008 - Next scheduled meeting of the County Committee (7:30 pm)

August 12, 2008 – Producer seminar presented by FSA on the 2008 Farm Bill changes.

August 15, 2008 – Final day to report all 2008 planted acreage.

September 1, 2008 – Sales closing date for 2009 NAP coverage on Strawberries.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please let us know. Also, if you know of anyone that would like to receive this newsletter, please supply us with their address. Also, you may visit our State website at www.fsa.usda.gov/nj.

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