



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Saratoga County FSA
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Hours

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

County Committee

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Pat Wood- Vice Chairperson
Chris Koval- Reg. Member

Staff

Joanne Scoville, PT
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**County Executive
Director**

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Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

July 2009

Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended

We recently were informed that the 2009 Crop Acreage Reporting deadline has been extended to **August 14th** due to extreme weather conditions in other parts of the country. For 2009, the final crop reporting dates are extended to August 14th, where the crop year 2009 crop acreage deadlines have not passed. Since the small grain acreage report deadline was June 15th, the extension of the deadline does not apply to small grains. For NAP purposes, producers are required to file an acreage report by the extended acreage reporting date but no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest if that is earlier than the extended acreage reporting date. Late fees will not apply if acreage reports are filed by August 14th and all other crop reporting requirements are met. Under no circumstances will the extended acreage reporting deadline affect the change in deadlines for filing NAP production information, NAP Notice of Losses or Notice of Losses for prevented planting. Late fees for acreage reporting will apply after August 14th, 2009.

DCP and ACRE Deadline Extended to August 14th

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up **started late April and ends August 14, 2009**, so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP. **DCP sign-up has been extended to August 14th as well.**

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact our FSA office.

Notice of Losses, Prevented Planting and Weather Conditions

It sure has been one wet and cool summer so far. What can USDA, FSA and producers do about these weather conditions? We all know we can't control the weather. But crop producers can be pro active in documenting and reporting losses due to adverse weather conditions. If you are prevented from planting a crop due to wet weather, file a Notice of Loss for prevented planting with the FSA office. This will put on record your difficulties and may pave the way for future disaster program eligibility. If you are a NAP participant, file a timely Notice of Loss with the FSA office- whether it be for prevented planting, failed acreage or low yield. You must file within 15 days of the crop loss becoming apparent. If you have federal crop insurance, file a timely Notice of Loss with your insurance agent, to alert them of the problem and arrange for a loss adjuster to visit. Federal Crop Insurance rules require timely notices within 15 days as well. If any adverse weather conditions affect your crops, report those incidents to our FSA office. If you have a crop advisor, have them document the conditions as well. For our part, FSA in Saratoga County has filed a USDA Flash Report to keep USDA officials informed about our wet and cool summer. We will continue to monitor crop damages and keep USDA and crop producers informed of crop conditions and program availability.

Saratoga County Fair July 14-19

The Saratoga County Fair will run from July 14th thru 19th. Dairy and crop producers from around the county will be exhibiting animals, crops and crafts to showcase the talents and achievements of the agricultural community. FSA will have an exhibit in the conservation building this year and will sponsor an award for the exhibit that best expresses the theme of the "Importance of Agriculture in Saratoga County". Look for our judging certificates as you stroll thru the 4-H club exhibits and cattle barn. Join us in celebrating the importance and diversity of the agricultural community in Saratoga County at the 168th Saratoga County Fair.

Saratoga Dairy Princess Selected

Congratulations goes out to Emma Heritage of Charlton who was selected as the 2009 Saratoga County Dairy Princess. She will be at the Fair and other events through out the year to promote dairy products and the dairy industry.

2009 County FSA Committee Elections

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1, will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. LAA #1 includes townships of Hadley, Day, Edinburgh, Corinth, Greenfield, Providence, Milton, Galway, Saratoga Springs, Malta, Ballston, and Charlton. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on the county committee*. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A nomination form, FSA-669A, may be picked up at the county office or downloaded from the FSA Web site. Simply go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

USDA will allow signups in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009 for either CREP or Continuous CRP. Funding is always available for both rental payments and conservation practice cost sharing. What that means is signup anytime and if eligible, be guaranteed enrollment and funding.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Future Newsletters

FSA has asked us to limit our future newsletter publications to three thru the end of September 2009. We will most likely publish a June and July newsletter and then not mail another for August and September of 2009. We will continue to publish an electronic newsletter and e-mail it to you upon request for the August and September issues and into the future if you so desire. If you want to receive our newsletter via e-mail, please share your e-mail address with us by calling us or visiting the office. We can continue to send the newsletter via e-mail indefinitely in the future if you so request as well. We are also posting our newsletter to the Saratoga County Cooperative Extension web site at www.ccesaratoga.org. Just click on the link on 1st page.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Selected Farm Loan Interest Rates for July 2009

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	2.50%