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## New Jersey FSA Newsletter

### New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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#### State Committee:

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#### State Executive Director:

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Please [contact your local FSA Office](#) for questions specific to your operation or county

### 2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their [Local County Office](#) to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for New Jersey Counties:

- **June 15, 2015: Spring Forage Seeding**
- **July 15, 2015: all other crops and CRP**
- August 15, 2015: Beans (fresh or processing, not grain)
- September 30 2015: for 2016 Value-loss and controlled environment crops (except Nursery), including Christmas Trees
- November 15, 2015: for 2016 Fall Forage Seeding, Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- January 15, 2016: Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Peaches

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your [Local County Office](#).

## Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call [your local office](#) ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

## Production Report Deadline –Required for NAP Participants

Production evidence for all crops must be reported to FSA to receive NAP benefits. For each crop for which an acreage report is filed and is covered by NAP, the producer **must** report all production for that acreage by the later of the following:

- the subsequent year's acreage reporting date for the crop (see Acreage Reporting Dates above). For most crops this is July 15th.
- 60 calendar days after the normal harvest date for the crop.

Reporting production will also help maintain your Actual production History (APH) each year and will provide you the greatest NAP benefit. **Note:** Producers can report production for a crop that is does **not** have NAP coverage to maintain their APH.

Except for grazed forage, controlled environment crops, and value loss crops, production **must** be reported for any NAP crop acreage. Failure to report production by the applicable production reporting date:

- will result in the disapproval of any CCC-576, Notice of Loss, associated with the year in which benefits are requested **Note:** Reports of production for an eligible crop in the year for which CCC-576 is filed **must** be accompanied by an acceptable record of production.
- will have adverse implications for future year approved yield calculations
- could result in future ineligibility for NAP assistance on this crop.

Production can be reported with production receipts, sales or pick records or by certifying your production. All certifications of production are subject to verification. Producers providing any certification of production attest that:

- the report of production is accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge
- no production of the crop is omitted or otherwise **not** accounted for in the report
- an acceptable record supporting the certification exists and will be made available for review at the request of CCC for a period of **not** less than 3 years following the year production was certified.

**Production evidence must be tallied, summarized and received by the county office before the subsequent year's acreage reporting date for the crop.** Example: 2014 squash production must be recieved by July 15, 2015.

Please contact [your local office](#) for additional information.

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## Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report crop losses, failed acreage and prevented planting (see below), due to natural disaster and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the [FSA County Office](#) within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

**NEW** - Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or when the loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The final planting date for field corn is June 10th in all insured counties and for soybeans June 20th in Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset and Middlesex Counties and July 5th in Mercer, Monmouth, Burlington, Ocean, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May Counties.

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, to report failed acres.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers must timely file a Notice of Loss for failed acres on all crops including grasses.

Please contact your [Local County Office](#) to file a Notice of Loss.

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## USDA Announces Changes to Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Planting Rules

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced fruit, vegetable and wild rice provisions that affect producers who intend to participate in certain programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Fruits, vegetables and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Producers who intend to participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables or wild rice are planted on the payment acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on acres that are not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments for that year. Eligibility for succeeding years is not affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on either more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the individual coverage.

Fruits, vegetables and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

## Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the [county office](#) for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Loan Rates for June 2015

- [Farm Operating Loans](#) - Direct 2.375%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) - Direct 3.50%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
- [Emergency Loans](#) - 3.375%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#) (7 years) - 1.875%

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

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