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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

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- [Lead Your FSA – Local Committeeman Serves to Support Fellow Farmers](#)
- [Double-Cropping & Final Planting Dates](#)
- [Acreage Reporting](#)
- [Filing a Notice of Loss](#)
- [FSA Makes Emergency Loans Available to NJ Farmers](#)
- [USDA Financial Assistance Available to Help Organic Farmers Create Conservation Buffers](#)

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## New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

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### New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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**Phone:**  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov/nj](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj)

**State Committee:**

Linda A. DuBois, Chair  
Kurt W. Alstede  
Samuel G. Conard

**State Executive Director:**

Barry Calogero

**Farm Loan Chief:**

Kevin P. Murphy

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

### Lead Your FSA – Local Committeeman Serves to Support Fellow Farmers

*By Dana Rogge, Public Affairs Specialist*

Lucas Goodman is a third-generation farmer from Hickman, Kentucky. Along with his dad and a full-time employee, he farms a couple thousand acres producing corn, wheat and soybeans. Goodman is a newly-elected member of the Fulton County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

Goodman said he never had a doubt about returning to the farm, established by his grandfather. In 2010, after he completed college and graduate school, he joined the farm full time.

“I’ve grown up on this farm,” Goodman said. “It’s always been a part of my life.”

Goodman was approached last year about becoming a nominee to serve on the local FSA county committee. After doing some research on what the job would entail, he decided it would be beneficial to be involved. He was elected and took office Jan. 1, 2018.

County committee members are elected by their peers and are a direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers on the committee help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level,

**Important Dates:**

July 16: acreage reporting deadline

August 1: Last day to be nominated for COC elections

August 1: NAP coverage deadline for 2019 strawberries

help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer and work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

As a new member, Goodman attended training to learn about the responsibilities of the county committee. He sees his role as a member as helping make the overall FSA experience at the local level the best it can be, as well as making sure programs are administered consistent with federal law and in an efficient manner.

“As county committee members, we should focus our role on customer service to the farmers and ranchers,” he said.

He also feels it is his role to help educate producers in his community about FSA programs and letting them know the committee serves on behalf of all producers.

“You are their voice and you support them,” Goodman said. “Starting here, with the local committee, very important decisions can be made. That is where it all begins.”

For more information on FSA county committee elections, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

**County Committee nomination are open until August 1, 2018**

Visit the New Jersey FSA Website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nj](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj) to find election information for your service center.

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## Double-Cropping & Final Planting Dates

### Double Cropping

Each year, state committees will review and approve or disapprove county committee recommended changes or additions to specific combinations of crops.

Double-cropping is approved when the two specific crops have the capability to be planted and carried to maturity for the intended use, as reported by the producer, on the same acreage within a crop year under normal growing conditions. The specific combination of crops recommended by the county committee must be approved by the state committee.

Double-cropping is approved in New Jersey on a county-by-county basis. Contact your office for a list of approved double-cropping combinations for your county or [click here for a complete list](#).

A crop following a cover crop terminated according to termination guidelines is approved double cropping and these combinations do not have to be approved by the state committee.

### Final Planting Dates

All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on the final planting date for specific crops. The final planting dates vary by crop, planting period and county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific planting deadlines. The timely planting of a crop, by the final planting date, may prevent loss of program benefits.

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## Acreage Reporting

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit your County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Remaining for the 2018 crop year:

- July 15, 2018 - all other crops, including CRP
- August 15, 2018 - processing beans

For the 2019 crop year:

- Sept. 30, 2018 – Mollusks, Christmas trees and sod
- Nov. 15, 2018 – small grains and hay
- Jan. 2, 2019 – honey
- Jan. 16, 2019 - apples, peaches, grapes and strawberries

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 County FSA office

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## Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting 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), 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 or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

**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 loss first becomes apparent. Additionally, this requirement is applicable to other crops as determined by the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs. Please contact your local office if you have questions about specific crops.

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.

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## FSA Makes Emergency Loans Available to NJ Farmers

Farmers in the following counties are eligible for Emergency Loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA):

Farmers in Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Burlington, Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean and Warren Counties who suffered severe physical losses caused by excessive snow, excessive rain, flooding and high winds that occurred March 2, 2018, through March 7, 2018.

Farmers in Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties who suffered physical losses caused by severe winter storms and snow storm that occurred March 6, 2018 and March 7, 2018.

Under these designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

**Applications must be received by February 8, 2019.** Please contact your local County Office for more information or visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nj](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj)

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## USDA Financial Assistance Available to Help Organic Farmers Create Conservation Buffers

USDA is assisting organic farmers with the cost of establishing up to 20,000 acres of new conservation buffers and other practices on and near farms that produce organic crops.

The financial assistance is available from the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

For conservation buffers, funds are available for establishing shrubs and trees, or supporting pollinating species, and can be planted in blocks or strips. Interested organic producers can offer eligible land for enrollment in this initiative at any time.

Other USDA FSA programs that assist organic farmers include:

- The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program that provides financial assistance for 55 percent of the average market price for organic crop losses and 50 percent of expected production due to a natural disaster.
- Marketing assistance loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell crops during harvest when market prices are low, and

deficiency payments to producers who forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity.

- A variety of loans for operating expenses, ownership or guarantees with outside lenders, including streamlined microloans that have a lower amount of paperwork.
- Farm Storage Facility Loans for that provide low-interest financing to build or upgrade storage facilities for organic commodities, including cold storage, grain bins, bulk tanks and drying and handling equipment.
- Services such as mapping farm and field boundaries and reporting organic acreage that can be provided to a farm's organic certifier or crop insurance agent.

Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/organic](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/organic) to learn more about how FSA can help organic farmers. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30) or follow #CRPis30 on Twitter. To learn more about FSA programs visit a local FSA office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).