

February 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\) Sign-up](#)
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
- [Upcoming Farmer Meetings and Events](#)
- [USDA Designates Five New Jersey Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas](#)
- [USDA to Host 2018 Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session](#)
- [Borrower training](#)

New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

300 Clocktower Drive
Suite 202
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

Phone: 609-587-0104
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

State Committee:

Linda A. DuBois, Chair
Kurt W. Alstede
Samuel G. Conard
Marty J. Bullock
Sean Gertner

State Executive Director:

[Barry Calogero](#)

Farm Loan Chief:

Kevin P. Murphy

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-up

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2019 must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster, plus an adjustment for normal mortality. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

February 2019 Rates:

- 3 year loan – 2.500%
- 5 year loan – 2.500%
- 7 year loan – 2.625%
- 10 year loan – 2.750%
- 12 year loan – 2.750%

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

Some storage and handling trucks are eligible for the FSFL. These include:

- **Cold Storage Trucks**-A van or truck designed to carry perishable freight at specific temperatures. Cold storage trucks can be ice-cooled or equipped with any variety of mechanical refrigeration systems.
- **Flatbed Trucks**-Truck with an open body in the form of a platform with no side walls for easy loading and unloading. These trucks can be categorized into different sizes which range from light, medium, or heavy duty, compact or full-size, or short and expandable beds.
- **Grain Trucks**-A piece of farm equipment specially made to accommodate grain products and are traditionally truck chassis units with a mounted grain "dump" body where grain commodities are transported from a field to either a grain elevator or a storage bin.
- **Storage Trucks with a Chassis Unit**-Commonly referred to as a box truck, box van or straight truck, is a truck with a cargo body mounted on the same chassis with the engine and cab.

To be eligible for FSFL, the storage and handling truck must be less than 15 years old and have a maximum of four axles with a gross weight rating of 60,000 pounds or less. Pick-up trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, and simple insulated and ventilated vans are ineligible for FSFL.

FSFL for storage and handling trucks must be \$100,000 or less. FSFL-financed storage and handling trucks must be used for the purpose for which they were acquired for the entire FSFL term.

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture.

For more information or to apply for a FSFL, contact your local [FSA Service Center](#).

Upcoming Farmer Meetings and Events

- **Rutgers Extension to discuss romaine lettuce**

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Food Safety Team is holding a Town Hall Meeting to learn the roles of the Food and Drug Administration, New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Department of Health in the 2018 Romaine foodborne illness outbreaks and what the plans are for the future.

Douglas H. Fisher, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture; Tom Beaver, Director of NJDA Division of Marketing and Development; Chris Kleinguenther, Bureau Chief of NJDA Division of Marketing and Development; and Wesley Kline, Rutgers Cooperative Extension will discuss the steps that were taken for past outbreaks and what can be done for future outbreaks.

Date and Time: February 15, 2019, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave. in Millville, NJ 08332.

This event is free, and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Charlotte at Charlotte.Muetter@ag.nj.gov or 856-839-3377 on or before Feb. 13 if you are planning to attend.

- **Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting**

The annual meeting provides central New Jersey vegetable growers with research information, regulatory updates, and an opportunity to receive pesticide education and credits. Pesticide credits CORE-2, PP2-3, 1A-3, 10-3.

[Click here to register](#)

Date and Time: Fri, February 22, 2019, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM EST

Location: Mercer County Extension Office (New Location), 1440 Parkside Avenue Ewing Township, NJ 08638 [View Map](#)

- **New Jersey Farm Bureau Town-Hall Retirement Planning**

Farm Bureau will host an evening workshop on the topic of **retirement planning for farmers 50** years and older. The program will be moderated by NJFB president Ryck Suydam and feature presentations by financial specialists from Farm Credit East, Farm Family-American National, AARP and others. The goal is to provide useful information on this important topic to help farmers learn more in an informal setting without the sales pressure that usually accompanies these presentations.

Time & Date: Thursday February 28th 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Rutgers Eco Complex 1200 Florence Columbus Rd, Bordentown, NJ 08505

Enrollment starts this week; For more information and registration please contact Melissa at the Farmhouse at 609-393-7163, melissaw@njfb.org, **RSVP required.**

- **Land Access Workshops for Beginning Farmers**

The SADC, in collaboration with the American Farmland Trust, is offering land access workshops for beginning farmers.

The goal of the workshops is to help next-generation farmers determine their readiness to access land, understand land tenure options, and conduct good site evaluations when looking for land. The next workshop (2/28/19) will focus on Leasing and Purchasing Land. Participants will learn about the elements of a good lease and what to consider when leasing; review purchasing options; identify the steps in securing a lease or purchasing land; and practice strategies for successful negotiation.

[Click here to register.](#)

Date & Time February 28, 2019 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location : NJ Department of Agriculture, 369 South Warren St., Trenton, NJ

USDA Designates Five New Jersey Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 2019 — Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue designated five New Jersey counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers who suffered losses caused by Hurricane Florence and other recent disaster events may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) [emergency loans](#).

These natural disaster area designations allow FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Excessive Rain and Moisture

Producers who suffered losses caused by excessive rain and moisture that occurred between July 20 through Sept. 27, 2018, in Hunterdon and Somerset counties are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous New Jersey counties of Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Union and Warren, along with Bucks County, Pennsylvania, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Excessive Rain, Moisture, Storm-Force Winds from Hurricane Florence

Producers who suffered losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain, moisture and storm-force winds from Hurricane Florence that occurred between July 20 through Sept. 27, 2018, in Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties are eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous New Jersey counties of Essex, Hunterdon, Passaic, Somerset and Union, along with Orange County, New York, and Bucks, Monroe, Northampton and Pike counties in Pennsylvania, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is Oct. 4, 2019.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#); [Emergency Conservation Program](#); [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#); [Livestock Indemnity Program](#); [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](#); and the [Tree Assistance Program](#).

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>.

See our website for additional disaster declarations <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nj>

USDA to Host 2018 Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session

USDA is hosting a listening session for initial input on the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA is seeking public input on the changes to existing programs implemented by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Risk Management Agency. Each agency will take into account stakeholder input when making discretionary decisions on program implementation.

The listening session will be held Feb. 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Building located at 14th Street and Independence Ave. S.W. in Washington, D.C.

The listening session is open to the public. Participants must register at farmers.gov/farmbill by February 22, 2019, to attend the listening session and are encouraged to provide written comments prior to the listening session. For those orally presenting comments at the listening session, written comments are encouraged to be submitted to regulations.gov by February 22, 2019. Additional written comments will be accepted through March 1, 2019. Comments received will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

For more information on the listening session visit farmers.gov/farmbill.

Borrower training

Borrower training is available for all Farm Service Agency customers. This training is required for all direct loan applicants, unless the applicant has a waiver issued by the agency.

Borrower training includes instruction in production and financial management. The purpose is to help the applicant develop and improve skills that are necessary to successfully operate a farm and build equity in the operation. It aims to help the producer become financially successful. Borrower training is provided, for a fee, by agency approved vendors. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager for a list of approved vendors.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in meetings should contact [Gabi Grunstein](#) at [732-462-0075](tel:732-462-0075) extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).