



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS URGED TO REPORT CROP LOSSES AND STRUCTURAL DAMAGE DUE TO HEAVY RAINS & FLOODING

The severe storm of June 7 dumped just over 6 inches of rain on much of Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. In order to assess the damage, agricultural producers are urged to contact the FSA Office at 508-295-5151 (X1) and report their crop losses, cropland damage, and any structural damage to their farm. This information will be used to request funding for the Emergency Conservation Program that will financially assist farms to restore damaged cropland (gully erosion, debris removal, sediment deposits, etc.) and/or water control structures (irrigation ponds, dykes, flumes, drainage systems, etc.). This program will cover 64% of the actual cost to repair structures and restore cropland. However, in order to request funding for this program, our office must establish the dollar value and type of losses and submit a formal request to our FSA Washington DC office. Therefore, it is very important farmers report their losses.

Emergency Loans

Farmers who suffered significant damage due to one of the weather events listed below may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency if they are unable to get financing from any other source. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent.

Production Losses: Eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed.

Physical Losses: Eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds to repair or rebuild essential farm buildings, clean debris or prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost.

<u>Disaster Designation</u>	<u>Eligible Counties</u>	<u>Type of Disaster</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
M1610	Essex, & Middlesex	Flooding	6/26/06
M1614	Essex, Middlesex, Plymouth	Flooding	7/10/06
N837	Barnstable, Dukes, Plymouth	High Wind/Snow*	8/29/06
M1642	Essex, Middlesex, Plymouth	Flooding**	1/25/2007

* Shellfish growers affected by December 8, 2005 coastal storm. ** Severe flooding due to heavy rains of May 12, 2006.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are in the process of requesting an Disaster Designation for Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties for the June 7, 2006 storm.

NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PRODUCERS MUST REPORT CROP DAMAGE WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE DISASTER EVENT

Crop losses must be reported to the FSA office using form CCC-576 Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or when damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer. The Notice of Loss IS NOT considered filed until the form is completed, signed and dated by the producer, and returned within 15 days to the FSA office. Notice of Loss forms can be obtained by calling the FSA office.

Prevented Planting:

If a crop cannot be planted due to adverse weather conditions, the producer must file form CCC-576 Notice of Loss "Prevented Planting" within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence and no later than 15 days after the final planting date for the crop. Final planting dates and Notice of Loss forms can be obtained by calling the FSA office. The Notice of Loss IS NOT considered filed until the form is completed, signed and dated by the producer, and returned within 15 days to the FSA office.

A certified Crop Loss Adjuster or FSA office staff will physically inspect the prevented planted acreage. To be eligible for prevented planted benefits, a producer must be prevented from planting more than 35% of the total eligible acreage intended for planting.

ACREAGE REPORTS MUST BE FILED BY JULY 15, 2006

Farmers are strongly encouraged to file an acreage report every year. The deadline for hay, corn, soybeans, fruits, and vegetables is July 15th. Acreage reports are a useful method of tracking your cropping history in the event you want to participate in future USDA programs. However, they are also required for program eligibility and compliance purposes.

Acreage reports are required for farmers who:

- Participate in the Direct Counter Cyclical Payment Program.
- Apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's).
- Apply for commodity loans.
- Participate in the Non Insured Disaster Assistance Program.
- Wish to participate in Ad Hoc Disaster Assistance Programs.

Acreage reports filed after July 15th will incur a late filing fee.

2006 County Committee Elections

Nominations are currently being sought for the following Local Administrative Areas up for election:

LAA #2- Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Rochester

LAA #4 - Bourne, Edgartown, Falmouth, Gay Head, Cuttyhunk, Mashpee, Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Sandwich, Tisbury, West Tisbury

Nomination forms will be mailed to all eligible producers in the above towns by June 16, 2006. Interested nominees must return their nomination petition to our office by August 1, 2006

KEEP YOUR FARM RECORDS UP TO DATE

Conservation Compliance

If you can answer YES to any of the following questions, your USDA program eligibility may be in jeopardy:

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm(s) this year?

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your NRCS representative before you begin work.

Reporting Changes to your Farming Entity

It is the producer's responsibility to notify the Farm Service Agency of *any* changes in his or her farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation such as a partnership or corporation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

Have You Changed Your Bank Accounts?

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all Farm Service Agency payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Centers offices must be notarize. To find out more, call the office.

Full Time Program Technician Position

USDA Farm Service Agency Westford, Massachusetts

SALARY RANGE: 24,070.00 - 48,679.00 USD per year

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, June 05, 2006
to Monday, June 26, 2006

SERIES & GRADE: CO-1101-CO-3/CO-7

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: CO-7

POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Westford, MA

MAJOR DUTIES:

Provides support for Massachusetts agriculture and farmers by helping implement Farm Service Agency (FSA) Programs. Responsible for carrying out all office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the following programs: Compliance, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Acreage Reporting, Field Work Activities, Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program, Price Support, Disaster Assistance Programs, GIS, and Payment Eligibility. Activities include many programs due to the size and workload of the county. Interprets and explains procedures, program regulations and forms to producers. Utilizes IBM System 36/AS400 and PC Computer to maintain producer and program data and process automated program forms. Uses a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered.

All interested candidates must submit application FSA-675 and KSA Statement by June 26, 2006. For detailed position requirements and application, please go to www.usajobs.com.

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Linda J. Morisset – Program Technician

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Carolyn Gilmore, Chair
Linda Hanson, Vice Chair
Ed Silva, Member
Dorothy Bartlett, Member



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