

Disaster Program Allows More Funds, Less Time To Claim

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers whose corn crop quality and quantity was damaged last year may be eligible for federal money, but they have to act quickly.

A broadened application of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's disaster relief program is being offered under the Clinton Administration that takes into account losses experienced by corn growers whose crops didn't mature, went bad, or had to be left in the field.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced the new assistance program last week, according to a news release from the Harrisburg office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

However, time is short — producers have only until May 7 to file a written disaster application and should contact a local ASCS office to determine eligibility.

The expansion of the federal disaster program takes into account the loss in value in corn which was unharvestable, and that which was harvested but was mold-damaged, low in feed value, immature, etc.

"Espy said adjustments in production will be made for corn producers who suffered losses from reduced quality caused by damaging weather or related conditions," according to the Harrisburg office's news release.

"This adjusted production will be used to determine whether these corn producers qualify for disaster

payments for the first time or for additional payments as applicable," Espy said.

For those who already filed their losses and expected none or a certain amount of disaster relief may find that a recalculation of their losses under the broadened allowance will increase the amount of the relief.

"Corn producers who (already) filed a written disaster application for the corn crop may be entitled to additional payments because of quality production adjustments," Espy said.

Donald Unangst, state executive director of ASCS, said that data gathered so far shows that while Pennsylvania corn production was the highest in five years, at 118.8 million bushels, cool summer temperatures and an early frost caused the majority of the crop to contain excessive moisture and low test weight, thus significantly reduced quality.

Unangst said he expects about 2,000 new or revised applications coming in to county ASCS offices for requests for disaster relief to cover losses from low quality corn, grading No. 4, No. 5, or Sample.

Highly Erodible, Wetlands Programs Explained

In other ASCS announcements, facts sheets were recently made available outlining ASCS sodbuster and swampbuster policy and also detailing requirements for some USDA loans.

The swampbuster and sodbuster provisions are those described under an April 1993-released ASCS Farm Program Fact Sheet, "Production of Crops on Highly

Erodible Land or Wetland."

The other fact sheet was concerned with beneficial interest requirements for loans and land deficiency payments (LDP).

The fact sheet concerning highly erodible land and wetlands states that the protection of highly erodible lands is authorized through the 1990 amendment to the Food Security Act of 1985.

According to the sheet, "... the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 discourages the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion under an approved conservation system.

"If crops are produced on such fields without an approved conservation system, producers may lose their eligibility for most U.S. Department of Agriculture program benefits."

As far as treatment of wetlands, producers will lose USDA benefits if the land being used for crops had been converted from wetlands after Dec. 23, 1985, or, if wetlands have been converted to cropland since Nov. 28, 1990.

Violating the sodbuster and swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill can affect farmer-eligibility for a number of other ASCS programs.

Those programs affected include the acreage reduction programs; price support loans; multiple peril crop insurance; farm related Farmers Home Administration loans; Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments; disaster assistance, including the emergency conservation program and livestock feed program; con-

servation reserve program payments; and conservation cost-sharing payments.

According to the fact sheet, "To retain eligibility for USDA benefits, it is important that before producers plant 1993 crops they know" several aspects about their operation.

Included are whether the Soil Conservation Service of USDA has made a highly erodible land

(HEL) determination on the land; whether crops and practices to be applied on HEL are authorized under an approved conservation plan; whether all conservation practices that are scheduled in the conservation plan for 1993 are applied on HEL; and whether any of their land was a wet area which was manipulated after Dec. 23, 1985.

Dairy Expo

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Scholarship Winners

Matthew Wanner, a senior in dairy and animal science, was named the winner of the Dairy Shrine Student Award. The son of Alfred and Carolyn Wanner of Narvon, Matthew received a plaque and lifetime membership in the Dairy Shrine.

Seven dairy science students received high academic honors during the program. Awards went to seniors Brent Baker of Martinsburg, Lynetter Goodling of Selinsgrove, Eugene Kreitzer of Fredericksburg, and Tom McCauley of Elizabethtown. Juniors receiving recognition were Roger Keith of Martinsburg and Dave Wascak of Dunbar. Peter Mozes, a sophomore from Greenville, was also recognized.

Judging Contest Results

The awards banquet serves as a culmination of all the year's events for dairy science students at Penn State. It is an opportunity to recognize winners of contests held earlier in the year.

Sid Barnard, coach of the Dairy Products Judging Team, presented a clock to club member Jodie Everly as high individual for 1992.

The Dairy Cattle Judging Team was recognized. The team consisted of Jeff Pirrung, Rebecca Sonnen, Tom Smallback, and Matthew Wanner. They were coached by Dale Oliver. They were first in Guernseys at the Eastern States Exposition, first in Ayrshires and Jerseys at the Pennsylvania All-American Contest, and first in Brown Swiss at the National Intercollegiate Contest.

The results of the Spring Judging Contest, held at the Ag Arena on March 20, were also announced. In the collegiate division, Thad Sturgeon of Fombell was high individual overall and Todd Biddle of Boalsburg placed second. In the oral reasons placing, Todd Biddle was first and Thad Sturgeon finished second. The results of the linear evaluation contest were also revealed. Dave Wascak placed first, James Over of Woodbury finished second, and Jayne Hess of Gettysburg was third.

At Last -- A 4-H Center for Chester County

After 25 or 30 years of searching for land and facilities for a 4-H Center in Chester County, the dream is about to be realized. The estate and heirs of Fiorre A. Romano of West Brandywine Township have generously donated 15 acres of land along Route 322 between Guthrieville and Honeybrook. They have also agreed to allow the 4-H Center an option to purchase an additional 5 acres which creates a 20-acre site for activities. The center will be named the Romano 4-H Center.

The 4-H program in Chester County has been very successful over the years, and currently there are 2,577 members and 263 volunteer leaders. One of the main problems, however, has been the lack of a facility to conduct shows, sales, meetings and contests. Events have had to depend on outside facilities, even some outside the county, to conduct programs. By scattering events throughout the area and at different dates, there has been a loss of identity and, most importantly, the interaction between 4-H members in different projects has been non-existent.

Now that the land has been secured, the next step is to construct a facility that can handle the wide range of activities that 4-H encompasses. The plan is to eventually build two pole building, two show rings, and a headquarters building. This main building will have meeting and banquet space, kitchen, showers and community facilities. There is also the possibility to include space for agricultural related agencies. Community groups will be able to use the buildings and grounds for a fee when there are no 4-H events scheduled.

The challenge now is to raise the funds needed to make the center a complete and worthwhile facility for not only 4-H, but for the entire Chester County community. The goal is to raise \$750,000 through contributions. The 4-H Center is under the able leadership of Pat Taws, President of the Board of Directors, and Representative Art Hershey, General Campaign Chairman.

It is visualized that, by 1994, a county-wide 4-H Round-Up lasting several days will be held at the site. The positive aspect of having 4-H members together with projects as diverse as dairy cattle and ceramics, or horses and computers, is very important to the development of the young people in Chester County. Youth from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups participate in this county's 4-H clubs, and the development of their leadership, maturity, and understanding of others is a key benefit of the 4-H program. So, if someone asks you to help, please consider supporting this worthwhile project that will have a positive effect on Chester County for years to come.

Several 4-H and FFA dairy cattle judging teams were invited to the banquet. Their placings were announced as well.

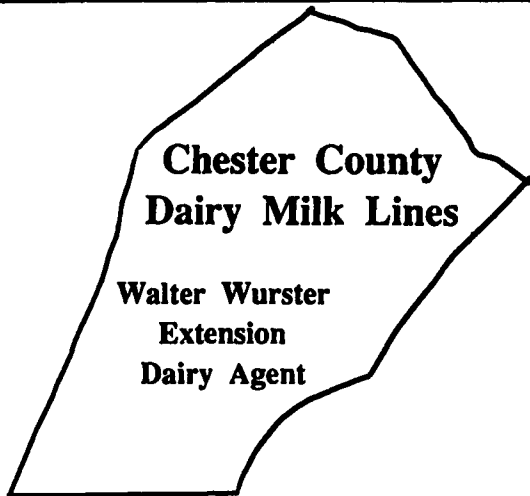
In the senior 4-H division, the team from Susquehanna County was high team overall and high reasons team. The team members were Josh Harvatine, David Harvatine, Steven Pavelski, and Andrea Garner. High individual overall was Donald Harwood of Franklin County and high reasons individual was David Fava of Washington County.

The junior 4-H division was won by Armstrong County. Team members were Leland Claypool, Roy Claypool, Travis Walker, and Todd Walker. High individual overall was Jessica Whiting of Lawrence County. Jessica Whiting tied with Adam Dean, also of Lawrence County, for high reasons individual honors.

In the senior FFA division, high team overall and high reasons team was Tulpehocken chapter, with team members Andy Bicksler, Melissa Bicksler and Jennifer Grimes. The high individual, for both overall score and reasons, was Andy Bicksler.

The junior FFA division was won by the team from Centre County. Team members were Kenny Brown, Brandy Semstrote, Ryan Connelly, and Trish Watson. High individual overall was Brandy Semstrote of Centre County while high reasons individual honors went to Jess Lawrence of Lawrence County.

Brent Baker served as judging contest chairman and Jeff Hostetter was his assistant. Official judges for the contest were Robert Barley, Gary Bicksler, John Burket, William Curley, Benjamin Dum, Jr., William Leshner, Steve Shaw, Matthew Wanner, and Peter Witmer.



Chester County DHIA - April 1993
Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Joseph & Sandra Lusby					
Meg	H	4-10	26,991	1047	823
Walmoore, Inc. #1					
294	H	2-09	24,638	864	819
Ken & Marilyn Umble					
#Pixie	H	4-03	26,881	912	848
Scotti	H	3-06	24,922	977	807
Robert & Sharon Nolan					
Brita	H	4-07	26,358	668	842
Edwin & Gale Mast					
635	H	3-00	22,563	811	800
Marilyn & Duane Hershey					
Sugar	H	5-04	30,588	1090	948
Satin	H	3-05	28,036	714	842
Duchess	H	5-09	31,868	1125	963
Gillen	H	2-09	26,727	933	934
Merle J. King					
Mandy	H	3-04	25,946	1021	803
Dunwood Farm					
Cheerio	H	9-03	26,550	995	847
Delight	H	3-02	23,102	1062	827
Classy	H	1-10	23,958	918	820
Chris & Ches Stoltzfus					
Polly	H	6-03	26,235	838	816
Sunlite	H	5-07	28,043	1125	879
Jana	H	3-05	29,138	1032	912
Tim & Phyllis Barlow					
Glamour	H	6-00	25,650	850	812
Herman Stoltzfus					
Cathy	H	4-02	27,341	901	810
Mark & Melody Stoltzfus					
Boots	H	4-11	24,602	901	805
Melwood Farm					
Jana	H	3-05	25,912	1038	849
Trudy	H	6-02	27,975	1120	917
Secret	H	3-07	30,599	1007	975
Kathy	H	3-01	26,829	963	848
Pei-Valley Farm					
46	H	7-10	24,777	1060	810
17	H	3-08	27,877	1014	893