**MARCH 15: Crop Insurance Deadlines**

Thursday, March 15 is this year's deadline for the enrollment and/or policy change for the following crops:

- Corn (grain and silage)
- Soybeans
- Grain Sorghum
- Processing Beans
- Processing Tomatoes
- Fresh Market Sweet Corn
- Spring Forage Seeding
- Spring Oats

The revenue plan AGR-Lite holds the March 15 deadline as well. If you are planning on utilizing crop insurance with any of the crops listed above or AGR-Lite, contact your crop insurance agent as soon as possible. As we approach the March 15 deadline, crop insurance agents will become inundated with work. Don’t procrastinate and call now to assure you have ample time to discuss options and create the best possible policy for your operation with your agent. If you have any questions, please call the New Jersey Crop Insurance Education Team at 1(800) 308-2449.

**Grain Marketing Meeting**

You are invited to join us as guest speaker Edward Usset, Grain Marketing Specialist for the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota, delivers his “Winning the Game” workshop. Workshops are to be held on:

- **Thursday, March 8** at the Salem County Extension Office in Woodstown
- **Friday, March 9** at the Burlington County Extension Office in Westampton

The workshop will run from 10am to 3pm on each day. Space is limited and registration is required. To register please call *(856) 769-0090.*
Wildlife Management for Agriculture

Wildlife Services (WS), a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), responds to requests from the public, organizations, and agencies in need of help in dealing with wildlife conflicts. WS, a federal service program that shares costs with cooperators, is charged with assisting in solving problems that are created when wildlife cause damage to agriculture, property, or natural resources. WS also assists with wildlife problems involving threats to human health and safety and threatened or endangered species.

In regard to protection of agriculture, the WS program in New Jersey assists with managing bird and mammal damage to crops and livestock. European starlings, an invasive species, often congregate at feedlots and dairies during winter months. Starlings can cause damage by consuming and contaminating livestock feed and water supplies with their droppings - potentially transmitting harmful diseases such as salmonella. Starlings can also contribute to lowered milk production in livestock, carry diseases between farms, and cause crop losses. Upon request, WS can provide on-site assistance to a facility where starlings are causing damage and develop plans to reduce the damage caused by the birds. An integrated wildlife damage management approach is used and may include recommendations for exclusion, harassment, and/or lethal control methods. For more information about the WS program you may call 1-866-4-USDA-WS in NJ or visit the WS website at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/)

Resident Geese Damage Management

Resident geese are classified as a migratory game bird and are protected by federal law. Farmers, places of business, and other property owners suffering damage to property or crops due to resident geese may apply for a permit to manage them by contacting the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at (908) 735-5654.

*Source: NJ F&W website

Farmers Wildlife Regulations

The occupant of a farm may allow his dog to run at large on the land he occupies, except during the firearm deer seasons. Farmers and their lessees occupying or farming their land, members of their immediate families, or their farming employees may kill crows, woodchuck, and fox on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and other lawful procedures. Farmers may use shot no larger than #4 buckshot to control woodchuck only.

Farmers may trap foxes destroying poultry, crops or property at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may shoot or trap coyotes by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. A regional Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote.

*Source: NJ F&W website
Crop Insurance for Silage Guidelines

A separate actual production history (APH) must be established for grain and for silage when some of the acreage on the unit will be insured as grain and some will be insured as silage.

- If you’re feeding silage, you are responsible for maintaining a formal written record system of fed production and to have those records available for the loss adjuster’s review.
- Acceptable records of fed production contain the following information:
  - Amount of silage fed each day
  - Silo/bin ID where production was taken
  - Number and type of livestock
  - Estimated average weight of livestock per head
  - Location or pen number
  - The unit number from which the fed production was taken
  - Whether fed production was from previous years production or fed directly from the field or truck

- If silage is stored on your farm, you must keep production records for each unit. The records can separate silos, wagon loads, weight records or weight tickets. Production must be weighted with an acceptable type scale prior to storing on the farm if production from different insurance units are co-mingled. If the grain content is less than 4.5 bushels per ton, a field appraisal should be made by an adjuster before harvesting begins.
- Acceptable weight tickets/records must provide the following:
  - Insured’s name
  - Load(ticket number
  - Crop
  - Gross weight
  - Unit number and farm serial number
  - Location of scales used to weigh production
  - Tare weight
  - Date weighted
  - Net weight of production
  - Legal description of land harvested
  - Identification/location of storage structure

- If you anticipate a loss before harvesting you must notify your crop insurance agent at least 15 days before harvesting begins.

The price election for 2012 Corn Silage is $50/ton, up from $42.25/ton in 2011

This means that if you were to be paid an indemnity on your 2012 corn silage, your payment would be $7.75/ton more than last year.

If you have any questions contact your crop insurance agent or the New Jersey Crop Insurance Education Team at 1(800) 308-2449.
**NJ’s Animal Waste Management Rule: Are you in Compliance?**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture adopted regulations in March 2009 that require all livestock farm owners to responsibly manage the manure generated on their operations - including those with horses, dairy cows, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry and all other domesticated species defined as livestock. All New Jersey farmers with livestock are required to be in compliance with the regulations by **March 16, 2012**.

The Animal Waste Management regulations require all farms with any livestock to comply with the five general requirements of the rule. In addition to the general requirements, all livestock operations with 8 to 299 “Animal Units” (one Animal Unit = 1,000 pounds) are required to implement an Animal Waste Management Plan by March 16, 2012. Exact requirements will vary with the size and animal density of the operation.

The NJDA will investigate alleged violations of the rules and take appropriate action, which may include fines of up to $1,000 per day for each violation as determined. The Department may allow the owner or operator up to 60 days to address or correct the non-compliance before imposing penalties.

According to New Jersey Statute (N.J.S.A. 4:1C) farmers must comply with all relevant federal and state statutes and regulations in order to maintain “Right to Farm Protection.” New Jersey’s Right to Farm Act Protects responsible commercial farmers from public and private nuisance actions and unduly restrictive municipal regulations. Failure to comply with the Animal Waste Management Rule may result in the loss of these protections.

Please contact the following Extension offices or visit [http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/default.asp](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/default.asp) for additional information.

**Hunterdon County Extension Office:** (908) 788-1338

**Sussex County Extension Office:** (973) 948-3040

**Salem County Extension Office:** (856) 769-0090

**Burlington County Extension Office:** (609) 265-5050

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This newsletter is brought to you by the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Initiative, a partnership between the USDA Risk Management Agency, New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County. For additional information about crop insurance, contact your crop insurance agent, locate a crop insurance agent at [www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html), visit our website [http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance](http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance) or call our toll free hotline 1-800-308-2449.