



New Haven/Middlesex County FSA Updates

New Haven/Middlesex County

FSA Office
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**County Executive
Director:**
Debbie Castle

Program Technician:
Kathryn A. Gostyla

County Committee:
Richard Y. Brock, Chair
Joseph A. Vaiuso, Vice
Chair
Wilbur Weed, Member
Joyce W. Werbiski,
Minority Advisor

County Committee Elections

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

The towns included in LAA#1 are: Wolcott, Waterbury, Cheshire, Prospect, Naugatuck, Middlebury, Southbury, Oxford, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby, Orange and Milford, CT

Bill Weed has been serving as a County Committee Member for the Towns in LLA#1. Due to the term limits a new member must be elected this year. Please join us in thanking Bill for his dedicated service as your FSA County Committee Representative.

Important Election Dates

November 5, 2012: Ballots mailed to eligible voters

December 3, 2012: Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office

December 6, 2012: Ballots will be counted at the FSA office in Wallingford at 1:00 P.M. by the County Committee.

January 1, 2013: Elected committee members and alternates take office.

The Nominee's for LLA1 are:

Vickie M. Bomba-Lewandoski of Seymour, CT

Edward A. Platt, III of Southbury, CT

NAP Coverage

The due date for 2013 NAP Coverage for Perennial and/or Hay crops is November 20, 2012. Perennial crops include but are not limited to asparagus, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb and various fruit trees. For annual crops the enrollment deadline is March 15, 2013.

Final inspection for 2012 NAP Notice of Loss

For producers who have losses in 2012, please note you have 14 days from when you notice the loss to report it. For producers who have already filed a notice of loss please notify the FSA office when you have completed harvesting your crops so we can schedule a loss adjuster to inspect your fields. Please report your total harvested crop production as soon as you have numbers available.

2012 DCP Final Payments

DCP final payments for 2012 participants will be issued in October 2012. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts.

BANKING CHANGES?

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. 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. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000.

Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Ron Clark at 860-887-9941 or Karen Tomlinson at 860-626-8852.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

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