



Words of Windham **FSA**

February 2009

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

Governor announces \$200,000 for Women & Minorities

Governor Rell announced that the state is adding \$200,000 to a popular program which provides small loans to women and minorities who are starting or expanding businesses. Since 1999, the Micro-Loan Guarantee Program for Women & Minority Owned Businesses has loaned \$3.5 million to 115 businesses and helped create 2,557 full and part time jobs.

Governor Rell said there are more than 110,000 business in the state owned by women and minorities and they account for 136,000 employees.

Micro-loans are available in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and can be used for general business purposes, including working capital, machinery, equipment and start up financing. The terms of the loans also require recipients to take part in a business management training course. To obtain more information or to apply for a micro-loan, call Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) at 888-835-2333 or visit www.cedf.com.

New Forms Required

With the new Farm Bill, producers are being asked to complete new forms that help determine the operation and members of the farm for USDA program participation. Diane Holowaty, Program Technician, is preparing

packets of information to send. Please be sure to call with questions or make an appointment to come into the office for help completing the information. Forms being updated for 2009 and subsequent years are:

CCC-902 I "Farm Operating Plan for an Individual"

CCC-902 E "Farm Operating Plan for an Entity"

CCC-526 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement"

FSA -211 "Power of Attorney"

AD-1026 "Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification"

Please note that entities like partnerships, corporations, LLC's or similar entities are being requested to provide "Articles" or "Board of Director's Meeting Minutes" which clearly state who has authority to sign on behalf of the entity.

FSA Signature Policy

FSA signature guidelines:

- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
- When signing on one's behalf, the signature must agree with the typed or printed name on the form or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement.
- Faxed signatures will be accepted for certain forms. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of faxed information.
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA & CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporation or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on behalf of each others individual interest in a partnership.
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individuals name, individuals name & capacity, or individual's name, capacity and name of entity.

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USDA
Windham County FSA
P.O. Box 399
Brooklyn, CT 06234-0399

Conservation Program Application Deadline February 27, 2009

Connecticut NRCS is taking Applications for the following programs:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – Used to assist farmers with structural and management practices to solve environmental concerns. Projects can include grazing, waste management, forestry, erosion control, pest management, air quality, and irrigation water reduction practices.

AMA (Agricultural Management Assistance) – This program is used to mitigate risk through production diversification and resource conservation. The focus this year is on deer fence, new micro-irrigation and alley cropping.

WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) – Used to assist land owners to develop and improve wildlife habitat. Focus areas are grasslands, riparian areas, old fields, streams and rivers and wetlands. Includes invasive species management.

GRP (Grasslands Reserve Program) – Used to provide an easement or rental payment to protect and restore grassland (pasture or hay). Used to protect grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses.

Persons interested in applying should contact Nancy Ferlow at the Brooklyn Service Center (860) 774-0224, Ext. 102, or visit the web-site at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

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February Calendar



- 2/25-2/26 Harvest New England Ag Market Conference & Trade Show
Sturbridge Host Hotel MA
860-713-2503 CT Dept. of Ag.
- 2/27 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program
Signup Ends
- 2/27 Sign up for Conservation Programs
Deadline
- 3/14 2009 Women's Agriculture Business
Planning Summit: What you need to
know to move forward.
South Windsor CT
Contact 860-774-8397 ext. 1 or
dawn.pindell@ct.usda.gov
- 3/18 Agriculture Day at the Capital



P.O. Box 399, Brooklyn, CT 06234
PH: 860-774-8397 x 1,
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

OFFICE STAFF:

Dawn S. Pindell, County Executive Director x 109
Diane C. Holowaty, Program Technician x 111
Sarah M. Phaiah, Program Technician x110
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager
860-887-9941 x 105

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Harold Bishop, Chairman
Betsy Molodich,
Vice-Chairman
Charles Tyler,
Regular Member