



**Cheshire-Sullivan
County FSA**

11 Industrial Park Dr
Walpole, NH 03608

Ph: (603) 756-2970 ext 2
Fax: (603) 756-2978

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Office Staff

Kelly Greenbacker,
County Executive
Director

County Committee

Tim Gowen, Chair
Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair
Chris Bartlett, Member
Hank Kenney, Member
Linda Rice, Member

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/nh

FSA Loan Office

The Concord Center
10 Ferry St
Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

Ph: (603) 223-6003
Fax: (603) 223-6030

**RETURNING COC
VOTING BALLOTS**

Ballots for this year's County Committee election have been mailed. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by close of business on **Dec. 3, 2012**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by Dec. 3, 2012.

Eligible voters in local administrative areas 3 (Westmoreland, Keene, Surry, Gilsum, Sullivan, Roxbury, Marlborough, Stoddard, Nelson, Harrisville, and Dublin) or 4 (Walpole, Alstead, Langdon, Acworth, Marlow, Lempster, and Washington) who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**HIRING FOR
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN**

A full-time position is available with the USDA Farm Service Agency as a Program Technician (PT) in the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office. The salary range is \$31,315-\$50,431, depending on the applicant's qualifications.

This is a unique opportunity to work for the USDA. The selected individual will be responsible for carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to the technical assistance and program support related to FSA farm programs at the field office level. Individual must be a high school graduate or equivalent and a United States citizen to apply. Interested individuals can apply by visiting the USAJOBS website at www.usajobs.gov or contact the county office for information. **The closing date for applying is December 10, 2012**

The Farm Service Agency is an Equal Opportunity Employer

FAREWELL TO JENNIFER ZALESKI

We would like to thank Jennifer Zaleski, Program Technician, for her service in the Cheshire-Sullivan County office over the last couple years. She has accepted a position as Program Technician in Windham County, VT. We wish her well in her new position!

**HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMER
AND RANCHER CLAIMS PERIOD**

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to visit the website or contact the claims telephone number.

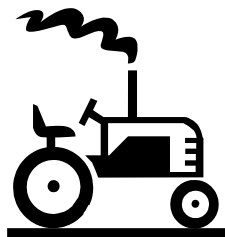
Website: www.farmersclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept 24, 2012—March 25, 2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, people seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in order to be eligible.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program, contact the county office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

During the last couple of years, our state has experienced tornados, microbursts, tropical storms, ice storms, hail, drought and excessive rain. Each of these events have affected our crops in one way or another. NAP is a federally-funded program that will help producers reduce their risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county not to exceed \$750 per producer per county, and \$1,875 per producer in all counties. Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of service fees.

Keep in mind that in order to qualify for new disaster programs, there needs to be NAP or Crop Insurance coverage on all crops that are of economic significance. The application closing dates are:

NOVEMBER 20	- All Perennial Crops
DECEMBER 1 (December 3rd for 2013 coverage)	- Maple Sap and Honey
MARCH 15	- Annual Spring Seeded Crops
SEPTEMBER 1	- Garlic, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushroom, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod
SEPTEMBER 30	- All Forage Crops

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 the county office staff.

AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

IRS 1099 CHANGES

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTIFY US OF ANY SIGNIFICANT WEATHER-RELATED LOSSES TO CROPS, LIVESTOCK, AND/OR BUILDINGS.

New Hampshire has experienced a number of natural disasters in recent years. Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges farmers and ranchers affected by natural disasters to keep thorough records of all losses, including livestock death losses, and expenses for such things as feed purchases and extraordinary costs because of lost supplies and or increased transportation costs.

FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Evidence of damaged farm land
- Photographs of damages are encouraged

Producers with damaged farmland should contact the county office. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) may be able to assist producers who need to repair farmland or remove debris.

Producers with damaged private forest land should also contact their local county office for information on the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). EFRP provides assistance to landowners of private non-industrial forest land to help carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.





**Selected Interest Rates
 Effective as of November 1, 2012**

Farm Operating Loans -- Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct, Joint Financing	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans -- Amount of Actual Loss	2.125%
Conservation Loan	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans -- 7 Year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans -- 10 Year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans -- 12 Year	2.00%

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3	NAP Deadline for Maple Sap
December 3	County Committee Ballots Due
December 6	County Committee Regular Meeting and Ballot Counting
December 25	Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
January 1	Office Closed - New Years Holiday
January 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apples, Peaches, & Nectarines
January 21	Office Closed - MLK holiday
February 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Maple Sap
March 15	NAP Deadline for Spring Seeded Annual Crops



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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 20250-9410, 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.