



**Rockingham-Strafford
County FSA**

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Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm

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

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 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 the claimant. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages should go to the website or call the claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov
Phone: 1-888-508-4429
Claims Period: September 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, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news re-

lease issued 9/24/12, go to the following link:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

**HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMER
AND RANCHER CLAIMS PROCESS**

Information regarding the *Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process* will be available at two meetings in Rockingham County.

On October 17, 2012 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm at the *Value Added Program Grant & Farm Loan Workshop* in Brentwood (see article) and on November 2, 2012 at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation in Portsmouth at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel from Noon to 12:30, FSA, RD and NRCS staff will be available to provide anyone contact information on the claims process.

Interested persons with questions may wish to stop by either location for a meeting and to speak with a USDA representative.

**VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANT
WORKSHOP**

The Rockingham-Strafford County FSA office is sponsoring a Value Added Producer Grant Workshop on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 1:00 to 3:30 pm at the UNH Cooperative Extension Office in Brentwood.

Sherry Paige, Business & Cooperative Program Specialist for USDA Rural Development will be on hand to conduct the workshop, discuss applicant eligibility, project eligibility, technical assistance availability and financing options.

Participants will include the Rockingham-Strafford FSA County Office, the FSA Farm Loan Division, Farm Credit East and UNH Cooperative Extension.

Please confirm your attendance with Carol Sargent at carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov or by calling (603) 679-4656x111 or with Nada Haddad at nada.haddad@unh.edu or by calling (603)679-5616.

Please RSVP by October 12, 2012.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

The New Hampshire Farm Service Agency would like to remind producers of the new acreage reporting deadlines.

- January 2 — Honey
- January 15 — Apples and Peaches
- February 15 — Maple Sap
- May 31 — Ornamental Nursery
- July 15 — Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and All Other Crops
- November 15 — Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Forage producers should pay particular attention to the reporting date change to November 15th. If you would like to set up an appointment to report your crops, please call the office.

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 are \$600 or more.

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5 on Nov. 5, 2012. LAA 5 includes Newington, Portsmouth, New Castle, Greenland, Rye, Newfields, Stratham, North Hampton, Exeter, Hampton Falls, Hampton, Brentwood, East Kingston, Kensington, and Seabrook. If for some reason you do not receive a ballot, please contact the County FSA Office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the County Office by close of business on Dec. 3, 2012.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

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

The maximum amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible facility or 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.

For more information FSFL please visit your FSA County Office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (NAP)

Do you have one or more crops that would significantly effect your income if you sustained a weather related loss?

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to an eligible natural disaster

The service fee is \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer. For multi county producers the fee cannot exceed \$1875. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the service fee.

The application closing dates are:

- **NOVEMBER 20** - All Perennial Crops
- **DECEMBER 1** - Maple Sap and Honey
- **MARCH 15** - Annually Spring Seeded Crops
- **SEPTEMBER 1** - Garlic, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Ornamental Nursery, and Turfgrass Sod
- **SEPTEMBER 30** - All Forage Crops

INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT

FSA has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000 as of Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has also increased to \$1,602,000.

Producers should contact their FSA County Office with questions about farm loans.

2012 DCP FINAL PAYMENTS

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after October 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into the producer's bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.



HAVE YOU HAD A WEATHER RELATED LOSS ?

In order for any county to have a disaster designation declared, information about weather related losses must be gathered by county FSA offices.

Any time you have bad weather that may affect your crops, buildings or livestock give the office a call or email carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov.

2011 SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for crop losses incurred in 2011 begins Oct. 22, 2012 and ends June 7, 2013.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 17	Value Added Producer Grant Workshop
Oct. 22	SURE signup begins
Nov. 5	Election ballots mailed
Nov. 12	Veterans Day
Nov. 15	Acreage reports due for 2013 perennial forage, fall forage seeding, and fall-seeded small grains
Nov. 15	2012 Forage production due
Nov. 20	NAP applications due for perennial crops
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	NAP applications due for maple sap and honey
Dec. 3	County Committee Ballots Due



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