

February 2013



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## Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Rockingham- Strafford County

#### FSA Office

**629 Calef Highway  
Epping, NH 03042**

**Phone:** 603-679-4656  
**Fax:** 603-679-4658

**County Executive Director:**  
Carol Sargent

**Program Technician:**  
Cyndy Schadler

**County Committee:**  
Richard Babcock  
Mary Current  
Wayne Elwood  
Judith Merrill  
Glenn Pierce

#### Farm Loans:

The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St  
Suite 212 Box 212  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone: 603-223-6030

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Judith Merrill of Stuart Farm in Stratham. Judy was recently elected to her second three year term on the Rockingham-Strafford County Committee.

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## 2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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 or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/).

Fax: 603-223-6030

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## FARM OPERATION CHANGES

### Website

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Updating farm operation changes with your FSA county office is necessary to maintain eligibility for most programs that you participate in. If you have made a change in the way you operate your business such as changing the makeup of your entity, purchased or sold farmland, added rented land, or any other changes that might effect your records here in the county office, please call and let us know.

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## DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) was recently extended through 2013.

Sign-up begins February 19th. To be eligible for DCP payments, producers must enroll their farms in DCP on or before Aug. 2, 2013.

To be eligible for DCP, owners, operators, landlords, tenants or sharecroppers must:

- \*Share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres
- \*Annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage;
- \*Comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation requirements on all their land;
- \*Comply with average adjusted gross income limitation provisions;
- \*Meet requirements to be considered actively engaged in farming;
- \*Comply with planting flexibility requirements;
- \*Use the base acres for agricultural or related activities and;
- \*Protect all base acres from erosion

For 2013, no advance direct or partial CC payments are authorized. Producers will receive the entire 2013 direct payment in Oct. 2013.

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## MILC PROGRAM EXTENDED

All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in MILC.

During the period beginning Feb. 1, 2013, through COB Feb. 28, 2013, FY 2013 production start month selection changes on CCC-580M will be accepted and the production start month selected may be any month in FY 2013 (beginning October 2012) After the authorized relief period, beginning March 1, 2013, all production start month changes must be made according to normal start month selection provisions.

If you are new to commercial dairying, please call the office for sign-up information.

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## **Microloans**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations by modifying its Operating Loan (OL) application, eligibility and security requirements. The program will offer more flexible access to credit and will serve as an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like speciality crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). These smaller farms, including non-traditional farm operations, often face limited financing options.

Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan Program, including but not limited to:

- \*Initial start-up expenses;
- \*Annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents;
- \*Marketing and distribution expenses;
- \*Purchase of livestock, equipment, and other materials essential to farm operations;
- \*Minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers;
- \*Hoop houses to extend the growing season;
- \*Essential tools;
- \*Irrigation;
- \*Delivery vehicles.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates are based on the regular OL rates that are in effect at the time of the microloan approval or microloan closing, whichever is less.

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## **AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT**

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 your local FSA office or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

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## **USDA 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 web-site) 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](http://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 release issued 9/24/12, go to the following link:  
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

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## REMINDER: IRS 1099 CHANGES

Producers who received less than \$600 in total FSA payments during 2012 will NOT be receiving a Form 1099.

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## FARM LOAN INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2013

- 1.125% Farm Operating - Direct
- 3.125% Farm Ownership - Direct
- 1.50% Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment  
Beginning Farmer or Rancher

2.125%    Emergency Loan - Actual Amount of Loss

1.25%     Farm Storage Facility - 7 Year

1.625%   Farm Storage Facility - 10 Year

1.875%   Farm Storage Facility - 12  
Year

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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).