



Farm Loan Team Receives Administrator's Award



Concord, NH Farm Loan Team

Farm Loan Manager Keith Farrell, Farm Loan Officers Lorna Wakefield and Sherrill Harris, and Program Technician Rebecca Davis

"For outstanding loan making and servicing achievements, service to Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, significant portfolio growth with low delinquency rates and efficient loan processing timeframes." That's the citation displayed on the certificate presented on June 27th by Administrator Teresa Lasseter to members of the Concord, NH Farm Loan Team for the 2006 Administrator's Award for Service to Agriculture. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator's Award is the most prestigious award given by FSA.

Team members include Keith Farrell, Farm Loan Manager, Farm Loan Officers Sherrill Harris and Lorna Wakefield, and Program Technician Rebecca Davis. They were selected in the category "Supporting Productive Farms and Ranches", acknowledging their outstanding efforts and successes serving NH farmers year after year. NH farm lending has seen the number of borrowers served grow for the 5th consecutive year, with continued increases in the number of youth borrowers and beginning farmers. This has been accomplished while maintaining one of the lowest delinquency rates in the country.

"This is a team of four dedicated and highly motivated individuals who work closely together," said State Executive Director Robb Thomson. "Their recognized efforts exhibit the results we hope for when employees do outstanding work to serve the diverse needs of New Hampshire agriculture."

SAVE THE DATE!



The 2006 Northern New England Small and Beginning Farmers Conference is November 17-18 at the Meredith Community Center in Meredith, NH. For more Info: call Abby 603 786-2366 or conference@beginnerfarmers.org

Employee News



State Executive Director Robb Thomson presents Mary Nichols with her retirement certificate

Mary Nichols was honored at the all-employee meeting on June 21st for her 36 years of federal service and upcoming September retirement date. Many presented her with gifts and entertained her with memories of meetings, training sessions and visits on the phone. Mary began her career with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service on her

19th birthday, August 11, 1970 in the Belknap County Office. During her career, she worked in Laconia, Rochester, and Concord, NH. In her retirement, Mary looks forward to gardening, cooking, travel, and grandchildren. She came prepared at the meeting with a very long list of additional things she hopes to accomplish. We hope you get to do them all, Mary!

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Paulette McKeeman

Paulette McKeeman started working with the FSA in Lancaster on May 1, 2006. She currently lives in Littleton, although, in the fall she will be moving to Jefferson, where she was raised. She says it feels like going home again, and is happy to be closer to her

parents. She comes from a large family of 7 children raised on a farm. They were very active in 4-H, and lived off their land. Paulette is grateful for her upbringing and feels that her hard work early on led her to an appreciation of farmers' concerns. She is very excited about her new position, and is glad to be back in this environment. She enjoys gardening, photography, cooking, arts and crafts, sewing, camping, hiking, and says, most of all, to stop and smell the roses.

Tori Chapman joined the FSA State Office in Concord on June 26, 2006 as a Program Technician. She is a 2005 graduate of Unity College in Maine, where she majored in Environmental Studies. Tori is originally from Plymouth, NH and currently lives on Newfound Lake. There, she spends her spare time working at her family owned and operated Alexandria Boat Shop where for several years, she has been fixing sailboats in the summer, and in winter, refinishing and restoring antique furniture.



Tori Chapman

Leah Wilson is the FSA Summer Intern in the Walpole Office of Cheshire/Sullivan counties. She is from Putney, VT, and will be a senior at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY this fall. She is majoring in Animal Science, with a minor in Business.



Leah Wilson

Leah is also interning this summer at a program called Farms for City Kids in Reading, VT where groups of 20 kids and their teachers come from inner city NY and Boston to spend a week working and learning on a dairy farm.



Ken Gustin will be leaving the Granite State and his role as NH District Director in August. He is assuming the Administrative Officer and Program Specialist position in the Maine State Office in Bangor. The move to Maine fulfills one of the personal goals for Ken and his wife Joy to be closer to her family in Limestone, Maine.

It was October 2000 when Ken and Joy moved to New Hampshire from Kansas. He had been a District Director, Administrative Officer and County Executive Director in the Sunflower State before moving east. Ken brought with him a great deal of experience, professionalism and leadership (not to mention his fiddle skills) that benefited everyone associated with the NH Farm Service Agency.

In addition to his DD responsibilities, Ken also accepted the role as coordinator for Equal Employment Opportunity, Civil Rights, Special Emphasis, Outreach and Regional Recruitment. His leadership skills in these and other areas were recognized in 2004 when he received the Administrator's Award.

At a recent employee meeting, co-workers had the opportunity to extend best wishes to Ken and to thank him for his past six years of service to NH Farm Service Agency.

Meetings & Conferences

26th Annual ESRI International User Conference

"GIS – Communicating Our World"

ESRI, producer of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, holds regular conferences regionally, nationally, and internationally for their software users. The Annual International User Conference is the largest meeting they hold, with this year's expected attendance to be more than 14,000 people. Marilyn Norton was chosen to represent FSA's Northeast Region at the 26th Annual ESRI International User Conference, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California, August 7 – 11th. Attending this conference will provide FSA the opportunity to connect, learn, and share with other GIS users. While at the conference, Marilyn will be meeting in breakout sessions with other FSA employees to discuss the agency's current and future GIS projects and policies.

Employee Appreciation



Linda Langdell and Sue Hoey

Rockingham-Strafford County Executive Director Linda Langdell recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS representative Sue Hoey awarded the Outstanding Partner Award to Linda for her invaluable support to the NRCS Epping Field Office in Farm Bill Program Administration.

Exceptional Service Awards



Pamela Marvin, Susan Sargent, and Tara Hamlett received cash awards for exceptional service to agriculture at the recent all-employee meeting. Also receiving cash awards were members of the New Hampshire Farm Loan

Team, Keith Farrell, Sherrill Harris, Lorna Wakefield, and Rebecca Davis.

Length of service awards were presented to Mary Nichols, Pamela Marvin, Kathleen Dole, Steven Schmidt, Linda Langdell, and Elizabeth Gleneck.

Congratulations to everyone!



SED Robb Thomson presents Pamela Marvin, Susan Sargent, and Tara Hamlett with exceptional service awards

Employee Training

State Environmental Coordinator Training

National State Environmental Coordinator training was held in Denver, Colorado the week of June 5th. Keith Farrell, State Environmental Coordinator for New Hampshire, attended the training along with the other 49 Environmental Coordinators from each of the other states. John Johnson, James Fortner and others from Washington, DC provided the 3 day training session on a variety of environmental issues.

Topics discussed included the new 1-EQ environmental handbook with amendments, Information Technology applications for environmental issues, Historic Preservation, Wetland Protection, Environmental Justice and other key aspects to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implications for FSA programs.

Additional training focused on dealing with hazardous materials and recognition of dangerous substance marking and labeling. Jeff Johnson, State Environmental Coordinator for Minnesota, provided some timely training on recognition and cleanup of clandestine drug labs.

Each day was filled with helpful and applicable training that the SEC's will now use to train their local staffs.

CED Management Training

Irene Schmidt, CED in Coos-Carroll County attended Phase I of the CED management course, held from June 11 through June 16, 2006 in Buffalo, NY.

The training is designed to provide participants with valuable management and supervisory skills to assist in office operations. Attendees in the program were a diverse group, coming from Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and California.



Flood News

Excessive rain during the month of May, and continuing into June, has created more than a challenge for many agricultural producers. Acreage which had already been planted washed away or rotted in the field, new river channels were cut out, debris and silt were deposited, and fences were damaged. Hay fields are too wet to cut, and fears are that the quality has been greatly diminished. As a result of all the rain, seven New Hampshire counties received Presidential Disaster Declaration M1643. Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford were primary disaster counties, with Cheshire, Coos, and Sullivan as contiguous counties. This makes all New Hampshire counties eligible for Emergency Loans.



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Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Emergency Conservation Program

Three New Hampshire counties have been approved for the Emergency Conservation Program. Grafton, Merrimack, and Belknap counties have received over \$200,000 to aid producers who have experienced damage from recent flash flooding. Practices to be implemented will include EC1, Removing Debris From Farmland, EC2, Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures, EC3, Restoring Permanent Fences, and EC4, Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations.

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