

3rd Quarter 2009



NEWSLETTER

COUNTY FSA OFFICE

1185 New Litchfield Street
Torrington, CT 06790-6098
Tel. 860-626-8852
Fax. 860-626-8850

HOURS

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Dan Logue-Chairman
Don Taylor-Vice Chairman
Charles Ferris IV- Reg Memb
Luke Tanner-Reg. Member
Butch W. Klug-Reg Member
Dorothy Jacquier-Advisor

COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Howard E. Rood Jr.,
County Executive Director
Ellen Losee,
Farm Loan Manager
Karen Tomlinson,
Farm Loan Officer
Barbara Hawley,
Program Technician
Carolyn A. Tomczyk,
Program Technician

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FARM SERVICE AGENCY

LITCHFIELD/FAIRFIELD

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION - LAA-2

This year, farmers in Local Administrative Area 2, the towns of Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Morris, New Milford, Plymouth, Roxbury, Thomaston, Washington, Watertown and Woodbury, will elect a representative from their area to serve a 3-year term on the Litchfield/Fairfield County Committee.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

If you, or someone you know, would like to serve on the County Committee, please take the time to fill out the attached nomination form. The form must be signed and dated by the nominee and returned to this office or postmarked by August 3, 2009. Names of all eligible nominees will be placed on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed on November 6, 2009.

THE ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payment. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details, contact your local FSA office.

The ACRE calculator spreadsheet along with instructions in PowerPoint format are located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ACRE THIS CROP YEAR IS AUGUST 14, 2009

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs under the title "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance". One of the programs created is the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program compensates producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011. As further information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. The deadline for reporting your 2008 NAP production is the same date as reporting your 2009 crop acreage – August 14, 2009.

CLARIFYING MILC PROGRAM PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND POSTINGS

MILC payments are issued on a monthly basis when the Boston Federal Milk Marketing Order Class I (Boston Class I) milk price falls below \$16.94 per cwt. The 2008 Act changed the \$16.94 per cwt of milk trigger for MILC payments to a variable trigger that may be adjusted monthly for variations in feed costs above \$7.35 per cwt. of a 16-percent protein feed ration. As a result, MILC payment rates are calculated using both of the following:

- * Boston Class I price announced by the Agricultural Marketing Service
- * National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost (NADFRC) prices for corn, soybeans, and hay alfalfa announced by NASS.

While the Boston Class I price is announced in the month preceding the month to which it applies, the NADFRC prices are used to determine the MILC payment rate for a month. Web links to both price announcements are posted to the PSD web site located at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=mpp-mi.

NOTE: Both the Boston Class I and NADFRC price announcements **MUST** be made for an applicable month **BEFORE** the final MILC payment rate can be calculated and payments disbursed.

As soon as both price announcements have been made, FSA calculates the MILC payment rate for the month and your payments are issued.

MILC PROGRAM PAYMENT RATES

| MONTH | BCI PRICE-\$ (16.94) | PAYMENT RATE- \$ (Before Adjust.) | NAD - FRC- \$ (7.35) | ADJUST TRIGGER | FINAL PYMT RATE Adj. for Feed Cost (\$/cwt) |
|-------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| OCT | 18.78 | 0.0000 | 8.83 | 18.48 | 0.00000 |
| NOV | 20.58 | 0.0000 | 8.47 | 18.10 | 0.00000 |
| EC | 18.68 | 0.0000 | 8.14 | 17.76 | 0.00000 |
| JAN | 18.99 | 0.0000 | 8.35 | 17.98 | 0.00000 |
| FEB | 13.97 | 1.3365 | 7.73 | 17.33 | 1.51352 |
| MAR | 12.68 | 1.9170 | 7.54 | 17.14 | 2.00561 |
| APR | 13.61 | 1.4985 | 7.54 | 17.14 | 1.58628 |
| MAY | 14.22 | 1.2240 | 7.87 | 17.48 | 1.46725 |
| JUNE | 13.33 | 1.6245 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| JULY | 13.51 | 1.5435 | TBD | TBD | TBD |

| | |
|---|--|
| FSA-669A (04-17-09) | U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2> | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i> | TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE | |
| 3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> | 5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> | 6A. COUNTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> | 6B. LAA NO. |
| 4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE | 7. STATE |
| 4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i> | DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR |

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino | RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|--|--|---|

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.



**USDA –
Litchfield/Fairfield
Farm Service Agency
1185 New Litchfield St
Torrington, CT 06790-6098**

EXTENSION OF ACREAGE REPORTING DATE – AUGUST 14, 2009

Because of extreme weather conditions across the county, many producers have not filed a 2009 acreage report, requested prevented planting, or reported failed acreage, as applicable. Therefore, the 2009 final crop reporting date has been extended to August 14, 2009. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

PREVENTED PLANTING:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

FAILED ACREAGE:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Please call this office NOW, to make arrangements to file your acreage report.

JUST A REMINDER OF OUR OFFICE EXTENSION NUMBERS:

Howard – 101, Ellen – 104, Barbara – 102, Karen – 103, Carolyn - 100