

# New Haven/Middlesex

June 2009

County FSA News

## New Haven/ Middlesex County USDA FSA Service Center

900 Northrop Road  
Suite# A  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
203-269-6665 (phone)  
203-294-9741 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ct

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Chairman:  
Bill Weed

Vice-Chairman:  
Nelson Cecarelli

Regular Member:  
Richard Brock

Minority Advisor:  
Joyce Werbiski

Our next County  
Committee meets on :  
Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00PM

### Staff

Nancy Welsh, County  
Executive Director

Ann Marie McCard,  
Program Technician

Teresa Peavey,  
Program Technician

## COC Election Nominations

From June 15 through Aug. 3, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the New Haven/ Middlesex County Farm Service Agency County Committee.

This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address.

Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 3. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 6. Dec. 7 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan.1, 2010.

## Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by July 15, 2009.

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

FSA will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. Crop acreage reports from producers are accepted for multiple future applications.

## Selecting a New Administrative Office

With today's farming operations covering more than one county, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) wants to inform producers they have the option to combine their farm records in the FSA office of their choice for convenience purposes. Selecting a new administrative FSA office is an option available to producers for the ease of servicing FSA program participation on farms in multiple counties.

Ordinarily Farm Service Agency procedure dictated that farm units were administered in the county office where the land was physically located. That restriction created the following problems:

- Producers had to visit two or more FSA offices for each task they wished to complete.
- Producers needed to keep production separate for LDP purposes, potentially leading to problems and lost benefits.
- Duplication of some tasks by the affected FSA offices and delayed payments as paperwork was transmitted between counties.



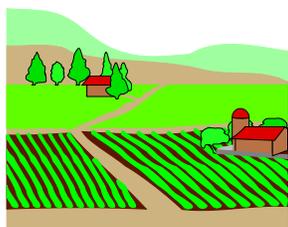
Changing to a new administrative allows a producer to transfer farm records to a neighboring county office if they can document to FSA that the change would be “significantly” more convenient. Examples of significantly more convenient would be working in the town, or doing most other farming business in the town. Other reasons may exist.

Transferring farm records to a new administrative county office for convenience is a one time selection for the current operator and land owner. The operator and land owner must agree to do business in the new administrative county once the records are transferred. However, a new operator would have the option of transferring the land to another county in the future. Additional information on transferring farm records is available at any FSA office.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment.

If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



### **NAP Failed Acreage Reporting**

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a “Notice of Loss” (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent

### **Measurement Service**

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement

service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

### **Continuous CRP Sign-Up**

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign up provisions. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP enrollments are not subject to competitive bidding.

To be eligible for Continuous CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. Exceptions to the rule include:

- if the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner’s death;
- the ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law; or
- the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

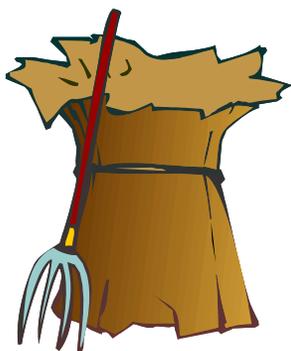
To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or certain marginal pastureland.

The following conservation practices are eligible for Continuous CRP sign up: riparian buffers; wildlife habitat buffers; wetland buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; shelterbelts; living snow fences; contour grass strips; salt tolerant vegetation; and shallow water areas for wildlife.

All eligible owners and operators, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, shall have an opportunity to submit requests to place land in CRP. For more information contact the county office staff for details.

## **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**

If you are a farmer or rancher who has participated in a farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with Farm Service Agency.



The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.

## **Youth Loan Projects**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.



Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and

process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

## **Signing for Entities**

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, producers need a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

## **Preventing Fraud & Waste**

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

## **Sodbuster, Swampbuster**

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any kind of field work.

***New Haven/Middlesex County  
Farm Service Agency  
900 Northrop Road Ste# A  
Wallingford, CT 06492-1900***



<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
<b>*Please Note*</b>	<b>FSA Office must be notified of loss for NAP within 15 days</b>
<b>07/15/2009</b>	<b>Report of Acreage Deadline</b>
<b>08/03/2009</b>	<b>Deadline for COC Nominations</b>
<b>08/03/2009</b>	<b>Deadline for DCP</b>

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ct>

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