



January 2010

New Haven/Middlesex County News

New Haven/Middlesex
County USDA
Service Center

New Haven/Middlesex
County FSA

900 Northrop Road
Suite# A
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

Bill Weed

Nelson Cecarelli

Richard Brock

Joyce Werbiski

Next County Committee meets:

January 11, 2010
at 11:00 AM

Staff

Nancy Welsh
County Executive Director

Kathy Gostyla
Program Technician

Teresa Peavey
Program Technician

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Bill Weed! Bill was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA# 1 on the county committee. Bill was elected to his third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting on January 11th, 2009 to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office at 203-269-6665 for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if their account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases their bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.



Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact Ellen Losee at 860-626-8852 extension#104 for more details and assistance in applying.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact Ellen Losee at 860-626-8852 extension#104 for more details and assistance in applying.

IRS Form 1099-G Report of

Payments to Producers

A summary of all earned payments and/or refunds during the previous calendar year, will be mailed to producers during the last week of January. Form CCC 1099-G will be mailed from KCMO.

Please review this information carefully to ensure accuracy prior to including it in your taxable income.



NRCS Announces Funding for Conservation Programs: Applications Being Taken

The U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program. These programs are some of USDA's Farm Bill Conservation Programs, which provide eligible applicants both technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices on their lands.

- Through EQIP, NRCS helps farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil erosion, agricultural waste management, and irrigation efficiency.
- Through WHIP, NRCS help landowners establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- The AMA Program helps producers address water management, water quality, and erosion, and mitigate risk through production diversification.



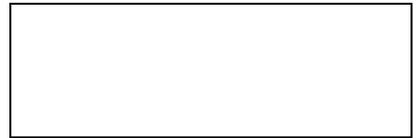
Sign-up is continuous, so you may apply anytime, however, for ranking purposes, the first cutoff date is January 15, 2010.

Persons interested in applying should contact the Wallingford USDA Service Center at (203) 269-7509, or visit the Connecticut NRCS website at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 1st	Happy New Year 2010
Jan. 15th	Conservation Program application deadline
Jan. 18th	FSA Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

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

New Haven/Middlesex
County FSA Office
900 Northrop Rd. Suite# A
Wallingford, CT 06492



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