



United States Department of Agriculture

New London County

Farm Service Agency

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2011

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Hours
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8:00 AM—4:30 PM

County Committee
John Gadbois— Chairman
Arthur Spielman III— Vice
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Ray Manning— Regular
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COC Elec- 2
tions

Hispanic and 2
Women
Farmers

AFIDA 2

ACRE 3

Producers 3
Must Comply
with AGI

DCP Signup 3

NAP Signup 4

2010 SURE 4
Signup

Message from Secretary Vilsack

Some recent news stories have focused on suspicions and rumors about the Obama administration's work on agriculture. The truth is that the President, EPA Administrator Jackson and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and producers so we can be the best possible partner for successful operations. These efforts are helping farmers enjoy some of the best incomes they have seen in decades.

Sadly, rumors and misconceptions have become the norm, not the exception, especially when it comes to regulations and how they might affect our nation's producers.

First, it was that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was considering treating spilled milk like an oil spill. Not true. And in terms of water regulations, EPA has made it clear that recent rules do not seek to regulate land that occasionally ponds during heavy rains.

Regulation of farm dust is another frequently repeated myth, based on a congressionally-mandated review that the EPA has conducted every 5 years for decades. We all know you can't farm without dust. And EPA has no plans to propose stricter standards.

And the Department of Transportation announced that it has no intention of proposing any new regulations or rules on the transport of agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm.

Perhaps more importantly, the Obama Administration has worked to be the most accessible and collaborative in history. The President and I are listening to farmers, ranchers and other producers and actively collaborating across the federal government to help everyone understand the facts of American agriculture.

I maintain a regular dialogue with Lisa Jackson at EPA and we even visited farms in Iowa together. The collaborative partnership we enjoy is reflected in our policies: pursuing common-sense standards that will give farmers a seat at the table and let them make the decisions they feel are best for their own operations.

One result of this sort of collaboration is that in 2009 and 2010, the federal government issued fewer new rules than it did in 2007 and 2008.

As you hear from producers about their concerns, I know you will continue to be helpful in providing them with the information they need to help their operations succeed, and not to get caught up in rumor or exaggeration. And you should urge folks with additional questions to contact the EPA directly, where they should be able to get further help in separating fact from fiction.

EPA and USDA understand that if we are going to solve the major environmental challenges of our time – combating climate change, reducing soil erosion, and ensuring an ample supply of clean water and healthy food for our families – farmers must help lead the way.



COC Elections



John Gadbois has faithfully served 3 three-year terms (the maximum allowed) on the New London County Committee for LAA #2. He has provided a great service to our New London County farmers and the FSA office staff throughout the past nine years. Thanks, John!

Eligible voters in LAA (Local Administrative Area) #2 will soon vote to elect their new County Committee representative to fill John's seat. LAA#2 consists of the following towns:

Bozrah, East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Salem, Stonington, and Waterford.

We have two nominees who submitted the following information about themselves.

Karen Scott:

Karen and her husband, Tom,

own and operate Scott's Yankee Farmer, LLC in East Lyme. They are a family operation with the third and fourth generations working the 100+ acres presently under cultivation.

The farm stand is open April to December 31st with bedding plants, beautiful hanging baskets and perennials in the spring; fruits and vegetables including strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, sweet corn, tomatoes, and peppers in the summer; apples, pumpkins, mums, gourds, Indian corn, wagon rides, corn maze, field trips, famous doughnuts, and cider making in the fall. They also offer pick your own fruit June to October as well as a unique Community Supported Agriculture program.

David Schillawski:

David grew up in Central New

York and graduated from Cornell University in 1992. He is married to Hannah Tiffany and has been a part of Tiffany Farms since 1992. He has been a member of the CT Holstein Board for 10-15 years and has served as the Vice President of the board for the last 3 years. He spent 4 years on the New England Holstein Board as assistant treasurer. He has been a member of an Agri-Mark YC board twice and is currently serving a second two-year term on the Vermont DHI board.

Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 4, 2011, and must be completed, **signed** and returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 5, 2011. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic,

or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

•Hispanic and Women

Farmer Claims Process, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

•Pigford – The Black

Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

•Keepseagle - The Native

American Farmers Class Action Settlement, please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506



AFIDA (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 the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2012, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is

based on 85% of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, producers do not



receive counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing

loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE.

Producers Must Comply with AGI

Farm Service Agency

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits.



The consent form authorizes IRS to verify whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before September

2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the

producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments.

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Sign-Up

Advanced and final payments for the 2011 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) have recently been completed. Payment statements were sent out to producers, with information concerning their payments and any questions can be directed to the County FSA office.

Sign-up for 2012 DCP will begin on January 23, 2012 for the 2012 program year. This is later than last year because the 2012 DCP will not

be issuing advanced payments which means there is no real incentive to sign up that early.

Even though you can't enroll in DCP now, consider completing your 2012 eligibility information. The more you do ahead of time, the less time each visit will take!



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Supplemental Revenue Disaster Assistance

Sign up for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Disaster Assistance (SURE) program **will begin November 14, 2011** and continue through June 1, 2012. If you experienced a loss in revenue due to disastrous weather conditions and **all** of your crops were insured with commercial insurance, NAP coverage or a combination of both you should consider signing up for SURE.



2012 NAP Program

November 20, 2011 is deadline to apply for coverage for perennial crops including but not limited to grapes, peaches, pears, blueberries, strawberries and mixed forage. **December 1, 2011** is the deadline to apply for coverage for honey and maple sap.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. The application and service fee must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county.

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