



Words of Windham

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

County Committee Elections

Just a reminder if you are in LAA-2 be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will start being mailed on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify us at 860-774-8397 x 1. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. LAA 2 towns are:

Woodstock, Pomfret & Thompson.

This year our nominees are; Harold Bishop, Woodstock Orchards; Diane Miller, Fairvue Farms & Jonathan Eddy, New Boston Beef.

Walktober

The Last Green Valley organization is holding its 19th annual Walktober Event. Walktober is a great chance to explore The Last Green Valley through more than 100 free guided hikes, strolls, paddles and many special events. For more information www.tlgv.org or 860-774-3300



Rebirth of a New England Farm

Ashford, CT – Cranberry Hill Farm, Nagy Rd. 2 mi., 2 hrs. Cranberry Hill Farm, Yale School Forests. October 3rd & 4th at 10:00 AM

Where the Buffalo Roam

Brooklyn, CT – Creamery Brook Bison, 19 Purvis Rd. Wear sturdy shoes that can get dirty. Less than 1 mi., 1.5 hrs. Creamery Brook Bison. October 11th & 12th at 10:00 AM

Views at an 18th-Century Orchard

Plainfield, CT-The Hall Homestead, 156 Plainfield Pike Rd., Rte. 14A. Saturday's 2PM-dusk & Sunday's 4PM-dusk Call 860-230-7836 for more details

Alpaca Trails

Canterbury, CT – Burgis Brook Alpacas, 44 N. Canterbury Rd., Rte. 169 1 mi., 2 hrs. Burgis Brook Alpacas October 4th at 10:00AM and 2:00PM

Turkey Talk on Ekonk Hill

Sterling, CT – Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, 227 Ekonk Hill Rd. 1 mi., 1.5 hrs. October 3rd at 2:00PM

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Disaster Program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in the excess of normal mortality rates on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011.

Eligible losses as a result of adverse weather as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, includes; blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes and wildfires.

SURE

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in only those counties and contiguous counties declared disaster areas by the Agriculture Secretary or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50 percent.

Farm Energy Workshop

November 5, 2009
10:00 AM USDA Office
238 West Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360

Or

2:00 PM UCONN Extension Building
139 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Have you had an energy audit and want to do something about increasing your energy efficiency or renewable energy? There is financial assistance and loan opportunities available to you through the USDA Rural Development REAP program. To reserve a space call Amanda Fargo-Johnson 860-345-3977 or email ctfarmenergy@aol.com.

Your business must be located in New London or Windham County to qualify

Cover Crop

Please do not forget to put down your cover crops after your crops are harvested. Cover crops are an important part of your compliance with many USDA programs.

Milk Producer Dairy Sustainability Grant

Starting in October, Milk Producers in Connecticut will start to get payments quarterly from the Agricultural Sustainability Grant. The grant is fueled by fees collected for filing land records.

In order to be eligible for the Milk Producer Grant Program you must:

- be licensed to produce milk for pasteurization
- complete an energy audit of your facility.

There are two options to fulfill the energy audit. The Connecticut Light and Power Company has a program to conduct energy audits of small business at no cost to you. Contact Randy Vaghini 860-832-4735. USDA NRCS has an online energy awareness tool that can be used to fulfill this requirement. In order to use this tool contact Joyce Meader at 860-774-9600 or Richard Meinert at 860-626-6240

You must also complete and return to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture:

- Energy Audit Verification
- State of CT Agency Vendor Form
- IRSW-9 and Connecticut State Elections
- Enforcement Commission Form 10



Once the forms are completed they can be mailed to:

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Attn: Milk Producer Grant
165 Capital Ave. RM G8-A
Hartford, CT 06106

If you would like to fax the forms please call first.
Phone-860-713-2508
Fax- 860-713-2515

For more information on the Milk Producer Grant contact Wayne Kasacek 860-713-2508.

Farm Storage Loan

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL and \$100.00 fee must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information contact the office.

eLDP

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Service (eLDP) is an Internet-based service allowing producers to request LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 72 hours.

Access to the eLDP service is available to all USDA customers. First register for a [USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account](#) by going to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov and click on Create an Account Page. Here you create a user ID and password and confirm your email. The final step requires visiting a local USDA Service Center to complete the eAuthentication process.

Once you have your eAuthentication account, you can go to the www.fsa.usda.gov. click on the Forms link on the top of the page, then click on Log In, read the statement, click I agree, then you are brought to the log in screen where you enter your user ID and password.

NAP Signup

USDA's Farm Service Agency's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

The service fee is \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

If you are not currently enrolled in the program and are interested in purchasing coverage please contact us by November 9, 2009.

Producers already enrolled for the 2009 program year will be contacted to see if they would like continuous coverage for the 2010 program. The application deadline for the 2010 year is November 20, 2009.

Historic Barns of Connecticut

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservations is looking for volunteers and donations to help preserve CT Historical Barns by striving to:

- Provide a trail for scholars and barn enthusiasts
- Supply a directory of preservation specialists
- Supply information on material, instruction and restoration tools
- Document locations of historic barns

For more information:

www.connecticutbarns.org or www.cttrust.org

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
940 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517-4002
Phone-203-562-6312
contact@cttrust.org



FSA State Executive Director Announces BCAP Implementation

Marsha B. Jetté, State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency for Connecticut announced that biomass conversion facilities may begin to apply for qualifications under the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). This allows producers or owners of eligible material who sell to these facilities to apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest or storage and transportation component (CHST) of BCAP.

“BCAP will provide financial assistance to owners of eligible material who deliver the material to qualified biomass conversion facilities that use biomass to produce heat, power, biobased products or advanced biofuel,” according to SED Jetté.

A facility can become qualified by signing an agreement with the CT State FSA Office. Contact Rosemary Edwards, Program Specialists, at 860-871-4094 or at Rosemary.Edwards@ct.usda.gov. This step is required before facilities can begin accepting materials.

Eligible materials may be paid at a matching rate of up to \$45.00 per dry-ton equivalent of the rate they received from a qualified biomass conversion facility. Eligible participants may receive payments for up to two years. The payments are to assist producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass materials.

Producers must apply for CHST matching program before they deliver the eligible material to a qualified facility. An agreement between the producer and the facility is needed to complete the application for a CHST matching payment at the FSA County Office.

FSA will need documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate to validate payment to be made.

More information can be viewed at www.fsa.usda.gov/energy.

PERMITTED NO. 25
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 06234
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PRESORTED STANDARD



Fall Activities

- October 3 & 4 Old fashioned “Harvest Tyme”
Blue Slope Country Museum, 860-642-6413
www.blueslope.com
- October 17 Killingly FFA Harvest Festival
Route 101, Dayville, Canned Food for Admission
860-779-6675
- November 7 Killingly FFA Spaghetti Dinner
Robert Desjardins Scholarship Fundraiser
East Brooklyn Fire Dept. 860-779-6675
- Pick your own orchards are open. Check out
www.ctapples.com for the orchard near you and for
apple recipes.
- Walktober Events www.tlgv.org or 860-774-3300
- November 30-Agricultural Resources, 7 pm
Canterbury Town Hall, Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate
860-450-6007

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OFFICE STAFF:

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Sarah M. Phaiah, Program Technician x 110
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 860-774-8397 x 1 Fax: 860-779-0148
www.fsa.usda.gov

Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager
860-887-9941 x 105

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Harold Bishop, Chairman
Betsy Molodich, Vice-Chairman
Charles Tyler, Regular Member

