



# Words of Windham

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture



## Secretarial Declaration of Disaster

Governor M. Jodi Rell has announced that farmers and related small businesses across Connecticut are eligible to apply for low-interest federal loans to recover their losses caused by severe rainfall, hail and flooding from May 12 to June 4, 2009.

“This much-needed federal relief will help Connecticut farmers recover what nature washed away,” Governor Rell said. “The state’s \$2 billion agriculture industry and the jobs it creates are essential to our economy.”

Contact Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager, at 860-887-3604 x 105 for loan information.

## COC LAA-2 Elections

The LAA-2 County Election results for Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock are:



Harold Bishop, COC Representative- 40 Ballots  
Diane Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> alternate-18 Ballots  
Jonathan Eddy, 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate-16 Ballots

We received 82 ballots, 8 were invalid; 21% of the total 395 voters in LAA-2 voted this year.

The Windham County FSA would like to thank all candidates for running and those who voted. The County Committee (COC) is an important part of FSA program administration.

## IRS Releases

To meet new eligibility requirements producers will receive a release form from FSA that allows the IRS to confirm that they do not exceed adjusted gross income (AGI) guidelines. FSA will only receive confirmation from IRS of the AGI guidelines of no greater than: \$500,000 nonfarm AGI for commodity and disaster; \$750,000 for direct payments; and \$1 M for conservation.

## BCAP

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides matching payments for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible materials brought to a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility.

For more details go to FSA’s BCAP website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/energy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy).

## SURE Sign Up

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program is now open. To be eligible:

- All economically significant crops grown must have NAP or Crop Insurance; or Buy In Coverage for 2008.
- Losses must be greater than 10%; or 50% if not a Secretarial Designation.
- Producer has to meet USDA program eligibility requirements.

SURE assistance is 60% of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue.

Call for an appointment to sign up for SURE. You will need production and loss record information to complete the application process.

## Bee Keepers Classes



The Eastern CT Beekeepers Association is presenting “From Zero to Beekeeping – 2010”. This lecture and interactive series focuses on honeybees and beekeeping, with an emphasis on management for pollination and honey production. This is a beginners class with no experience necessary. It will be taught by experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers from the association.

Classes will be; January 28th, February 4th, 11th, & 18th from 6:30 till 9:30 each night. Classes will be held at University of CT, W.B. Young Building, School of Agriculture, Room 101 in Storrs, CT. The cost is \$60 and includes all materials needed. Vo-Ag students can attend for \$50. Info at:

Adam Fuller 860-455-1296;  
adam@azapiaries.com; or Bill Paluska  
860-871-1303

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

## 2010 Crop Insurance Sign-Up Deadlines

Contact your crop insurance agent to meet deadline renewal, changes and cancellation requirements for:

### January 31, 2010:

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)  
Adjusted Gross Revenue-LITE (AGR-LITE)

### March 15, 2010:

Corn  
Crop Revenue Coverage  
Fresh Market Sweet Corn  
Potatoes  
Tobacco



## Renewable Power and Energy Efficiency Opportunities

### Energizing the Rural Landscape— Renewable Power and Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Our Farms, Homes, and Communities

Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:00 to 3:30  
(Registration open at 8 am)  
Periwinkles Restaurant & Banquet Hall  
917 Southbridge St, Auburn MA 01501

This SWCS sponsored conference will have panel discussions, networking opportunities & case study reviews.

For registration costs and a full agenda please contact Elizabeth Rogers 860-774-8397 x 105.

## Seedling Sale

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) is preparing for its annual fundraising plant sale. The order deadline will be in late March. Order forms will be published in the upcoming ECCD newsletter.  
[www.ConserveCT.org/eastern](http://www.ConserveCT.org/eastern)



Help support conservation and enhance your landscaping at the same time!

### Last Business Friday Each Month: Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) Dairy

FSA requires crop insurance or NAP coverage for all economically significant crops grown to be eligible for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) .

AGR & AGR LITE can be used to comply with SURE requirements. Crop insurance agents can be found at [www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu](http://www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu).

## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

Marketing Assistance Loans for crop years 2009 through 2012 are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop and maintain beneficial interest through the time of application. Beneficial interest is the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

Commodity loan eligibility requires complying with conservation and wetland protection, acreage reporting; grade and quality standards of the stored crop. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan**

FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (includes nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance**

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

## **Farm Loan Program**

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loans (OL) to family-size farmers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Our loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. Also youth loans for ages 10 to 20 are available.

For loans contact Ron Clark at 860-887-9941 x 105

~ Current loan rates are about 3%. ~

**Rural Development:** Utilities Programs, provides basic services such as clean running water, sewers and waste disposal, electricity, and telecommunications; Housing Programs address rural America's need for single family and multi-family housing as well as health facilities, fire and police stations, and other community buildings; Business Programs, provides help to rural areas that need to develop new job opportunities, provides small businesses and AG-Producers renewable energy opportunities and provides funding opportunities for Ag related value added projects.  
www.rurdev.usda.gov or 860-859-5218

## **Natural Resource Conservation Service:**

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources. NRCS employees provide technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs. NRCS provides financial assistance for many conservation activities. NRCS offers a variety of programs from Environmental Improvement Plans to Forestry Incentive Programs.  
www.nrcs.usda.gov or 860-774-8397 x 102 to speak with Ray Covino.

## **Connecticut Cooperative Extension**

**System:** CES provides practical learning resources to address complex problems of families, communities, agriculture, business and industry. CES is part of a nationwide educational network through the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Teams of professionals and trained volunteers teach the state's diverse population to make informed choices and decisions affecting their lives and environment. Some of the programs offered are; The Master Gardener Program, & Dairy Livestock Program  
860-774-9600 or www.extension.uconn.edu

**Risk Management Agency-** RMA helps producers manage their business risks through effective, market-based risk management solutions. RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).  
www.rma.usda.gov or call the Raleigh Regional Office at 919-875-4880.

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Windham County FSA  
139 Wolf Den Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234-1729



## Calendar

**February 1st** - Deadline:  
Grass Land & Wetlands Reserve Program.  
NRCS 860-774-8397 X 102.

**February 3-5th** - New England Grows  
Horticultural & Green Industry Convention.  
Boston MA. 508-653-3009 or  
[www.NewEnglandGrows.org](http://www.NewEnglandGrows.org).

**February 18th-21st** -CT Flower & Garden  
Show, Hartford CT. 860-884-8461 or  
[www.northeastexpos.com](http://www.northeastexpos.com).

**February 28th**– 2010 CT Turf, Landscape &  
Irrigation Conference, Mohegan Sun Casino.  
203-699-9912 or [info@cgka.org](mailto:info@cgka.org).

**March 4th**—Farming and Inland  
Wetlands Forum: What Every Agricultural  
Producer Needs to Know, 8 to 4, Maneeley’s  
South Windsor. [joan@cfba.org](mailto:joan@cfba.org); 860-768-1100

**March 6th**– Farmers Organic Gardeners 8th  
Annual Conference, 8:30AM to 5:30PM. Concord,  
NH. 603-654-7595 or [www.nofanh.org](http://www.nofanh.org).

**March 6th**– Cultivating an Organic CT,  
Manchester Community College.  
208-888-5146 [www.ctnofa.org](http://www.ctnofa.org)

**March 10th**– Farm to Kitchen to Market, Hows &  
Whys of Commercial Kitchens. 8:30-3:00 Crowne  
Plaza, Cromwell CT. 860-570-9067 or  
[candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu](mailto:candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu).

**March 18th**– AG Day at the Capitol Hartford CT

**March 19th**- Deadline for CT FSA Internship  
Applications. For more information  
[www.da.usda.gov/employ/SIP\\_instructions.htm](http://www.da.usda.gov/employ/SIP_instructions.htm)

**March 31st**– Communicating the Value of  
Agriculture in Your Town - An AGvocate Workshop.  
Canterbury Town Hall 6:30 pm to 9pm.  
Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate, 860-450-6007

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139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234  
PH: 860-774-8397 x 1,  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

### OFFICE STAFF:

**Dawn S. Pindell**, County Executive Director x 109  
**Diane C. Holowaty**, Program Technician x 111  
**Sarah M. Phaiah**, Program Technician x 110  
**Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

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

### COUNTY COMMITTEE:

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