



Words of Windham

June, July & August
2010

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

Acreage Reports

Acreage reporting season is upon us. You will be receiving appointment cards in the mail. Reporting your acreage is required to be eligible for most programs.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, call to make a new appointment. An appointment will better able us to prepare for your visit. Please bring the planting dates of all of your fields and what you planted. What you planted has to be specific for example; grain corn, cherry tomatoes, melody grapes, etc.

We also encourage those who do not already report to do so to establish a growing history and eligibility for USDA programs.

The deadline for acreage reporting is July 15, 2010.

LAA-1 Nominations

The Windham County Farm Service Agency nominations are open for County Committee in Local Administrative Area 1 towns of; Ashford, Eastford, Chaplin, Hampton, Scotland, Windham, and Canterbury.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a nominee please contact the office for a nomination form. To be eligible you must participate or cooperate in an FSA Program and be of legal voting age.

All nominations are due before the close of business on **August 2, 2010**

Compliance Guidelines

As the 2010 cropping season begins, the local USDA Service Center is encouraging producers to review their conservation plans for highly erodible land (HEL).

Staying in compliance with this plan is required to qualify for a variety of USDA benefits and programs. USDA programs include, but are not limited to: Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Farm Loan Programs, and Loan Deficiency Program (LDP). In addition, the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Farm Bill require landowners and producers to protect wetlands on land they own or operate.

NRCS may find that program participants are not in compliance with HEL and Wetlands compliance requirements during annual compliance reviews, as a result of a whistle blower complaint, or during the course of providing technical assistance.

If you are found to be out of compliance then you must pay back all program money paid to you in the fiscal year plus interest.

If you have concerns about your conservation plan or would like more information please contact NRCS at (860) 774-8397 x 2.



Transition Land from Generation to Generation

Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is a new program to help transfer land from established farmers who are getting ready to retire to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers. In order to qualify for the program the following requirements must be met:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

GRP

In order to receive your annual Grassland Reserve Payment you must report your acreage. Letters were previously sent reminding you what land you have enrolled. It is required that the enrolled fields stay in hay until the contract expiration date. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

June is Dairy Month

In honor of Dairy Month here are some fun facts:

- Starbucks® uses 2 percent of the nation's milk in their growing coffee drink business.
- One cow produces about 350,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.
- It takes 3 to 3 1/2 cups of broccoli to equal the calcium in one cup of milk.

Summer Farm Tour

July 20, 2010

10:00 AM

108 Crystal Pond Road, Eastford CT

10:00 AM– We will tour Buell's Orchard with the Sandness Family who have continued the family orchard since its beginning in 1889. The focus will be on crops grown and USDA programs that assisted with the new deer fencing and crop production coverage. A luncheon for \$6.00 per person will be held at the orchard.

Then the tour will travel to meet with Margaret Chatey at 196 Chatey Road, Ashford. Louis and Margaret Chatey operate Westford Hill Distillers on 200 acres that have been in the Louis family since 1919. We will tour the business started in 1997, and learn about how they purchase locally grown fruit to produce quality brandies.

This tour is sponsored by the Windham County Food & Agriculture Council which includes USDA FSA, NRCS, Rural Development; UConn Cooperative Extension, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, and the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Call 860-774-8397 x 1 for information.



See the Many Faces of Agriculture in
"The Last Green Valley" at...



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Woodstock Fairgrounds
Rte 169, Woodstock Connecticut

Free Admission/Free Parking
Open to the Public/Rain or Shine!

Join us for a
Hearty Farm Breakfast
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Donation
Adults - \$5.00, Children under 10 - \$3.00

- *Agricultural Displays
- *Food
- *Events/Demonstrations
- *Farmers' Market
- *Egg Activities
- *Hay Rides & Farm Tour
- *Forestry Fair & Competition
- *Children's Activities
- *Farm Equipment
- *Entertainment
- *Horses, Cows & More

If you wish to **volunteer or have an exhibit.**
USDA Service Center in Brooklyn
(860) 774-8397, Ext. 109
www.celebratingagriculture.org

Food Preservation Classes

These classes are being held by UCONN Extension through the state. 203-407-3163 or diane.hirsch@uconn.edu to register. **You must pre-register to attend event**

Saturday, July 10, 10 am – 12 noon
(canning and freezing)
Windham County Extension Center, Brooklyn
Registration deadline July 7.

Listed below are the Windham County Farmer markets for additional information <http://www.ct.gov/doag>, click on 2010 Farmers Market in welcome box. All farmers markets are WIC & Senior FMNP Authorized

Ashford Farmers' Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
June 6 - October
Pompey Hollow Park, Across from the Town Hall

Brooklyn Farmers' Market

Wednesday, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
June 16 - October 27
560 - 574 Providence Road, Rte. 6, Ocean State Job Lot Parking Lot
WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks Accepted

Danielson Farmers' Market

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
June 12 - October 30
Killingly Memorial Library - 25 Westcott Road
WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks Accepted

Hampton Farmers' Market

Fridays, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Jun 4 - September 24
436 Hartford Tpke (Rte. 6), Chapels Greenhouse

Plainfield Farmers' Market

Tuesdays, 4 p.m - 6 p.m.
June 29 - October 5
Recreation Office/Senior Center - 482 Norwich Rd(Rte 12)
WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks Accepted

Putnam Farmers' Market

Mondays & Thursdays, 3:30 p.m - 6 p.m.
Mondays June 14 - October 25, Thursdays May 6 - November
18 Kennedy Drive
WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks Accepted

Scotland Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
May 26 - October 27
Scotland Green, Junction of 97 & 14

Willimantic Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
May 29 - October 30
Corner of Jackson & Union Streets, Under the Pavilion
WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks Accepted
EBT Accepted

Return Service Requested

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

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

Calendar

July 3rd

- Canterbury Parade & Celebration 10 AM

July 14th

- CNLA Summer Field Day, Canterbury Horticulture, CT Green Industry People Only, 860-535-0610

July 15th

- Acreage Reports Due

July 20th

- Farm Tour see article page 2

July 31st

- Windham County 4-H Fair, Brooklyn Fairgrounds, 860-774-9600 x 18

August 2nd

- COC LAA-1 nominations due to office

August 3rd

- Women's Committee Meeting, CT Farm Bureau Office Windsor, 4-5:30
semintz43@aol.com

August 3rd

- Young Farmers Business Meeting, CT Farm Bureau Office Windsor, 7-9
ctyoungfarmers@gmail.com

September 25th

- Celebrating Agriculture, Woodstock Fair Grounds, 9-3, 860-774-8397 x 109

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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 x110
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