



NEWSLETTER



Windham County FSA Office

Quarterly Newsletter
October/November/December
2011

139 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234-1729

860-774-8397 x 1
860-779-0148 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ct

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Windham Staff

Dawn S. Pindell
County Executive Director, x 109

Diane C. Holowaty
Key Program Technician, x 111

Ron Clark
Farm Loan Manager
860-887-3604 x 105

County Committee

Harold Bishop, Chairman
LAA-2 Representative

Betsy Molodich, Vice-Chairman
LAA-3 Representative

Charles Tyler, Regular Member
LAA-1 Representative



County Committee Elections

Ballots will be sent to producers in Local Administrative Area 3 towns of Putnam, Killingly, Brooklyn, Plainfield and Sterling. Candidates to represent these towns on the County Committee are: Betsy Molodich, Sterling, and David Griffiths, Killingly. Please return your ballots by December 5th. The County Committee meets quarterly to review FSA program signup and participation.

Disaster Assistance Programs

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey & Bees (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection

insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP and ELAP.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farm or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

2012 DCP & ACRE Sign Up

Sign up begins January 23, 2012 through June 1st. No advance payments will be made; final DCP payment will be made in October 2012.

- All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling **must** be reported for: Ownership changes; Producer changes (Individual & Entities); and Change in crop shares arrangements.
- Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2012.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

If you grow it and it needs storage we may be able to help with a low interest FSFL. You will need to provide a 15% down payment on the project. Loan terms are 7, 10 or 12 years. Partial disbursement can be made when the project is half done; the final disbursement is when construction is complete. The loan must be approved by the County Committee before any work begins.

The interest rate for October is:

- 1.500% for FSFL “approved pending funding” with 7-year loan terms
- 2.125% for FSFL “approved pending funding” with 10-year loan terms
- 2.375% for FSFL “approved pending funding” with 12-year loan terms

New Office Location

On December 1st USDA is moving from the Windham County Agricultural Center to new office space at 71 Westcott Road, Danielson; next to Bonneville Pharmacy. The move will provide more space for Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service offices and work areas. Our new phone numbers will be:

Phone: 860-779-0557

FAX: 860-779-0607

We look forward to seeing you at our new location.

Grassland Reserve Program

If you are haying fields that will likely stay in hay production for the next ten years; you may be interested in enrolling in the GRP program. The annual payment is \$14.00/acre. There is also a GRP Easement Program similar to the PDR program where producers can earn a \$5,000 +/- onetime payment to keep the land in grass forever.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

If you believe you were improperly denied a USDA Farm Loan because you are Hispanic or a woman, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. The applicable years for this process are from 1981 to 2000. For information:

Hispanic & Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547.

Keepseage – The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program

November 15th is the deadline to obtain 2012 NAP coverage on fruits, hay, Christmas Trees. Signup at the office by this date to cover your 2012 crops and stay eligible for the SURE program. Spring planted crops can sign up by March of 2012.

- A **Notice of Loss** must be filed within 15 calendar days after the disaster event; or the date low yields are apparent to the producer.
- Annual yield records must be submitted to the office to maintain an **Actual Production History** (APH). Losses are based on 50% of your established yield. No records can result in a zero yield for that year.
- **Application for Payment** requires signing the form and submitting crop records. The county committee will review these requests with information provided by the Loss Adjustor’s visit to the farm.





2010 & 2011 SURE Signup

Producers can apply for a SURE payment if a crop of economic significance is located in a primary or contiguous disaster county under a Secretarial Designation and suffered at least a 10% loss on or before September 30, 2011. Crops do not have to be harvested by that date. To participate in SURE you must have crop insurance for insured crops and NAP for non insured crops; all crops on the farm must be covered.

SURE requires good records with verifiable evidence of seed, fertilizer, crop maintenance; and harvest and losses. Take photos of damage and have a third party person verify your losses. This information should be kept in a folder to bring into the office when we are able to accept your applications.

Signup for 2010 crop losses begins November 14, 2011 and ends June 1, 2012.

Signup for 2011 crop losses will not be accepted until October of 2012.

Farm Loans

Contact Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager, located in the Norwich USDA Service Center Office, at 860-887-3604 x 105 for information on farm loans. He may be able to work with you on credit needs for the 2012 growing season as well as equipment purchases and improvements for the farm. Direct loans and guaranteed loans working with your preferred agriculture lender, are available.

Loans can be made to qualified Established Farmers, Beginning Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Persons, Youth, and for Emergency help to recover from crop losses.

Beginning Farmers have not operated a farm for more than 10 years; will materially and substantially participate in the farm operation; agree to participate in a loan assessment, and borrower and financial management training sponsored by FSA; and do not own a farm that is larger than 30% of the county's median farm size. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.



No More Newsletter Mailings

To help reduce USDA expenses across the country; FSA will no longer be mailing newsletters. To get updates on FSA information you will need to provide an e-mail address. If you don't have one; please ask a family member to set one up for you and they can print off news and information for you. Information will also be e-mailed to agriculture organizations. A few printed copies will be available at the office.

Email diane.holowaty@ct.usda.gov to let us know your email address for Newsletters and information.

Spot Checks

A few farms are randomly selected each year for USDA program and acreage spot checks. You will receive a notification letter if your farm was selected.

Please be sure to follow your Conservation Plan developed with NRCS.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs 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, or reprisal.

Events & Deadlines

Nov. 4 th	Grassland Reserve Program Signup deadline.
Nov. 5 th	Barnyard Beef Sale –UCONN @ 10:00am – 860-486-2035.
Nov. 5 th	Maple Syrup Producers of CT Annual Meeting – Burlington, CT – 8:00am to 3:30pm – info@ctmaple.org – www.ctmaple.org
Nov. 10 th	Ag Viability Grant Application deadline – Ron 860-713-2550 – www.ctgrown.gov
Nov. 10 th	Finding \$'s in Tight Times for Beginning Farmers – Windham Extension Center – 9:00am to 12:00pm – for information: ctwagn@cox.net
Nov. 10 th	Farm Transition Grant deadline – Ron 860-713-2550 – www.ct.gov/doag/cwp
Nov. 18 th	CT Farm Bureau Annual Meeting – South Windsor – 860-768-1108 – www.cfba.org
Nov. 29 th	“Working Together to Preserve Farmland” an AGvocate Workshop, Canterbury Town Hall, Canterbury; 6 to 9 pm; Free; Jennifer Kaufman 860-450-6007
You can find more Connecticut FSA information on state news releases, newsletters and other at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ct .	
For NRCS program signups and information go to www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov	

Healthy Soils Workshops

8 am to 4:30 pm at Scout Hall, East Windsor,
Contact Raymond Covino at 860-774-8397 x 102

Nov. 14 th	Row Crops & Livestock, 5 credits for Private Applicators (PA).
Nov. 15 th	Perennial Crops; Orchards, Vineyard, Christmas Tree Growers and Greenhouse, 5.5 credits for PA and 3A (Ornamentals & Turf)
Nov. 16 th	Small Scale Farming, The Residential Landscape and Permaculture, 5.5 credits for PA and 3A

REGISTRATION FORM: Farming in the 21st Century: A Practical Approach to Improve Soil Health

Name _____

Street Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone No. _____

No. Attending @ \$10/each _____

= \$ _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Session you wish to attend

Nov. 14th

Nov. 15th

Nov. 16th

Please make checks payable to: Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area

Please mail to: 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066

Please RSVP by November 4, 2011

Space is limited...register early!