



NEWSLETTER



February 2011

Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office

11 Industrial Park Dr
Walpole, NH 03608

Ph: 603-756-2970, ext 2
Fax: 603-756-2978

Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

County Office Staff

Pam Marvin
County Executive Director

Jenn Zaleski
Program Technician

County Committee

David Adams, Chair
Tim Gowen, Vice-Chair
Leo Hunter, Member
Linda Rice, Member
Hank Kenney, Member

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/nh

Important Dates

- Feb 21** – Washington’s Birthday (Office Closed)
- Feb 28** – Sorghum Checkoff Referendum ends
- Mar 14** – CRP signup #41 begins
- Mar 15** – NAP & Crop Insurance signup deadline
- Apr 15** – CRP signup #41 ends

COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Recently, elections were held in LAA 2. Leo Hunter won re-election with 29 votes with Ellsworth Putnam, First Alternate, receiving 1 vote. We would like to congratulate Leo on his win and we look forward to working with him. The Committee is a vital link in FSA as they play an important part with the administration of many old and new farm bill programs. We want to thank all of you who took the time to vote for the committeeperson of your choice. At their meeting in February, the Committee voted in Dave Adams as Chairperson and Tim Gowen as Vice-Chairperson.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

March 15, 2011 is the deadline to sign up for NAP coverage on those annually spring seeded crops that are not covered under the RMA Crop Insurance Program. This program is a good safety net against weather related production losses of at least 50%. The service fee is \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per county. Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of service fees. If interested in signing up for 2011 coverage, please give us a call. **REMINDER:** to qualify for the new SURE disaster program, a producer will need to have crop insurance and/or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance.

2009 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

Signup for the 2009 SURE Program has begun and will continue until July 29, 2011.

SURE is the new disaster program that provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. The revenue for each crop is determined by multiplying the farm’s production quantity by the National Average Market Price for the crop, NOT the actual price received by the producer. For producers to be eligible for SURE, they **MUST** have obtained crop insurance and/or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops grown on the farm that are of economic significance (contributing to at least 5% of total income). Those producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer do not have to meet this requirement. A “farm” refers to all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted.

Producers must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on at least one crop of economic significance in order to be eligible. If interested in signing up, you will need to report all acreage as well as provide production records, if not already on file.

For more information, please contact the FSA office.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

With the variety of winter conditions that we have been experiencing, we want to make sure producers are aware of the LIP. This will provide monetary assistance for livestock deaths as a result of adverse weather, including snow and ice storms. Contact this office if you feel you may qualify for this assistance.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

Signup #41 for the general Conservation Reserve Program will be March 14, 2011 to April 15, 2011.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Participants voluntarily remove this land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts of 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50% of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, call this office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

SORGHUM CHECKOFF REFERENDUM

A referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program will be run from February 1 through February 28, 2011. For the program to continue, the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than 3 years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. The order requires a simple majority vote for the program to continue.

The referendum will be conducted at local FSA offices for producers and at the Agricultural Marketing Service office for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail, FAX or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.