



# NEWSLETTER



## August 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  
pamela.marvin@nh.usda.gov

Jenn Zaleski  
Program Technician  
jennifer.zaleski@nh.usda.gov

### County Committee

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

### Website

[www.fsa.usda.gov/nh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nh)

### Important Dates

**Sept 5** – Labor Day (Office Closed)

**Sept 30** – Sign-up deadline for mixed forage NAP coverage

**Oct 10** – Columbus Day (Office Closed)

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

The Farm Service Agency is rapidly converting its most commonly used form of direct communication to producers, the newsletter, to an electronic format. We encourage all producers to volunteer e-mail addresses and/or cell phone numbers in order to continue receiving our regular newsletters. You may e-mail your information to either Pam or Jenn at your earliest convenience. Both e-mail addresses are listed on the left hand side of the page. Thank you in advance for your patience and willingness to help during the upcoming time of change.

**Please remember to notify us of any significant weather-related losses to crops, livestock, and/or buildings.**

### HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keipseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

### NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

September 30, 2011 is the deadline to sign up for NAP coverage on mixed forage. 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.

### Other NAP sign-up deadlines:

- **September 1:** Value Loss Crops (ex: Christmas trees, ornamental nurseries, mushrooms, etc)
- **November 20:** All Perennial Crops (ex: peaches, blueberries, cane berries, strawberries, etc)
- **December 1:** Maple Sap

### **REPORTING FARM CHANGES**

Is it the responsibility of the producer to notify the Farm Service Agency of any changes in their farming operation or entity status. Buying or selling land, a change in the member's shares, adding or deleting a person to your operation, or starting a trust are all changes that the Farm Service Agency needs to be updated on. Please contact the office promptly when any changes occur.

### **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.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

### **BANKING CHANGES?**

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

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.