

May 2013



## Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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### Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office

11 Industrial Park Drive  
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: 603-756-2970  
Fax: 603-756-2978

### County Executive Director: Kelly Greenbacker

**County Committee:**  
Timothy Gowen, Chair  
Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair  
Chris Bartlett, Member  
Hank Kenney, Member  
Linda Rice, Member

### Farm Loan Manager: Keith Farrell

**Farm Loans:**  
The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St  
Suite 212, Box 212  
Concord, NH 03301  
Ph: 603-223-6003  
Fax: 603-223-6030

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

### Acreage/Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before the disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. Perennial Forage reports for the 2013 crop year were due Nov 15, 2012. However, late reports are accepted for the 2013 crop year. Late-filed fees may be waived if reported before September 15, 2013. Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and all other crops must be **certified by July 15, 2013**.

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### Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA *prior to* conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary. For more information contact the FSA county office.

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### Farm Record Change

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office to update your file.

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## DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

Sign-up periods for Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for **DCP** before the **Aug. 2, 2013**, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for **ACRE**, which will end **June 3, 2013**.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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## CRP Sign-Up Starts May 20th

Farm Service Agency will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), **beginning May 20 and ending on June 14, 2013**. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years. Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP visit the local FSA office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA County Committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA County Committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from **June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and online. The Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which includes Claremont, Charlestown, Unity, Newport, Goshen, and Sunapee, will be holding an election this year. Leo Hunter of Claremont currently represents this area.

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## Online Data Tool for Public

The USDA Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Program Statistics query tool, known as REGStats, is the official new tool of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for making program application and participation rate data available to the public on the Internet.

The REGStats website provides summary information about the number of individuals and entities that apply for, and receive, federal assistance from four USDA agencies or mission areas – the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development (RD), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The information available in REGStats includes the number of applicants and recipients, by fiscal year, for USDA programs available to agricultural producers and landowners, categorized by race, ethnicity, and gender. Summary totals may be obtained nationally, or by state and county for the 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories.

Visit the online site: <http://www.regstats.usda.gov>

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## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss during the 2011 crop year.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program, contact the local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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**\*\*\* Please Remember to Notify the FSA County Office of Any Significant Weather Related Losses to Crops, Livestock, and/or Buildings in Cheshire or Sullivan County \*\*\***

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## Filing for NAP Losses

For producers participating in the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the CCC-576 Notice of Loss is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by NAP, you must file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss in the

FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the natural disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

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## Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

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## Dates to Remember

**May 20 to Jun 14** - CRP 45 Signup

**May 27** - Memorial Day Holiday: Office Closed

**Jun 3** - ACRE signup ends

**Jun 7** - Signup Deadline for 2011 SURE Program

**Jun 17 through Aug 1** - County Committee Election Nomination Period

**Jun 18** - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Meeting

**Jul 15** - Acreage Reporting deadline for Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and all other crops

**Aug 2** - DCP Signup Ends

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## Interest Rates

### Selected Interest Rates for May 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - Direct 1.375%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 3.50%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 1.250%

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).