

June 2013



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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office

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County Executive Director: Kelly Greenbacker

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

Acting Farm Loan Manager: Keith Farrell

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

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (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. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at the USDA Service Center 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.

DCP Deadline Approaches

The sign-up period for Direct and County Cyclical Program (DCP) is still open. Producers are encouraged to **sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline**. ACRE signup ended 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.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#)

CRP Sign-up Ends June 14th

Enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) ends **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 and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Application Deadline

The last day to submit SURE applications for 2011 crop losses is 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 Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact the local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.

Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Contributions*

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- Active personal labor,
- Active personal management,
- A combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

*Note: There are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farm Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Farm Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has farm operating loans as well as loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a person who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to the members' individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Dates to Remember

Jun 3 - ACRE sign-up ends

Jun 7 - Sign-up deadline for 2011 SURE program

May 20 to Jun 14 - CRP 45 Signup

Jun 17 to 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 sign-up ends

Continues - Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Interest Rates

Selected Interest rates for June 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - Direct **1.250%**

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct **3.375%**

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing **5.00%**

Emergency Loans - **2.250%**

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) **1.250%**

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).