

August 2013



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## 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 ext. 2

Fax: 603-756-2978

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

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Executive Director:

Kelly Greenbacker

[kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov](mailto:kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov)

### County Committee:

Timothy Gowen, Chair

Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair

Chris Bartlett, Member

Hank Kenney, Member

Linda Rice, Member

### County Committee Meetings:

September 17 - 6:00 p.m.

December 5 - 6:00 p.m.

### NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper

[brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov](mailto:brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov)

Phone: 603-223-6003

### Farm Loans:

The Concord Center

10 Ferry St

Suite 212, Box 212

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-223-6003

## Emergency Conservation Program Signup for Cheshire & Sullivan Counties

On July 2, 2013 a severe weather system caused heavy rain and flash flooding that resulted in damage to farmland in Cheshire & Sullivan Counties. Farms suffering severe land damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Cheshire-Sullivan Farm Service Agency County Office in Walpole, NH. **The sign-up period for ECP will run from July 29 – August 30, 2013.**

Producers suffering damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by FSA. Qualifying damage includes damage that would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- be unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the average eligible cost of restoration measures. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland and/or maple orchards
- grading, shaping, releveling, or similar measures
- restoration of permanent fences
- restoration of conservation structures or other installations

Producers who have suffered damage to their land due to the July severe weather event may contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office at 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608 or call 603-756-2970 (ext. 2).

Fax: 603-223-6030

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## Crop Reporting Deadline Extended

Farmers and landowners have an additional 18 calendar days to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office with the deadline extended from Monday, July 15, 2013, to **Friday, Aug. 2, 2013**. Only the FSA reporting deadline has been extended. The acreage reporting requirement for crop insurance has not changed and remains July 15.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP); the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE); the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistant Program (NAP).

Acreage reports for FSA are considered timely this year when filed at the county office by the **new applicable final crop reporting deadline of Aug. 2, 2013**. Producers should contact their county FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

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.

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## Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **Aug. 2, 2013, deadline**. However, for the 2013 crop year, producers have until Sept. 16, 2013 to enroll.

To make an appointment or to receive more information, contact the FSA county office.

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## Adjusted Gross Income Certification

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainse/vlet>.

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## Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. **For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the**

**occurrence of the 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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## Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

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## Dates to Remember

**Aug 1** - County Committee Election Nomination Period Ends

**Aug 2 - *Extended*** Acreage Reporting deadline for Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and all other crops

**Aug 2** - DCP Signup Ends

**Aug 30** - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Signup Ends for Cheshire & Sullivan Counties

**Sept 2** - Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)

**Sept 17** - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Meeting

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## Interest Rates

### Selected Interest Rates for August 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 1.50 %

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 3.625 %

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00 %

Emergency Loans - 2.50 %

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.00 %

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