

September 2013



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## Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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### Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office Topics for September

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.

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#### 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

#### Next County Committee

**Meeting:** September 17, 2013 at  
6:00 PM

#### 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

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### County Executive Director (CED) Comments

I would like to thank Cheshire and Sullivan County producers for their time and patience with FSA programs and paperwork during the 2013 crop year. Acreage Reporting for the 2013 crop year has come to a close. For producers participating in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) program, payments will be released in October. Also, please keep in mind that the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program is set to expire on September 30, 2013.

I would like to remind producers that the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office has only one full-time employee at this time. While an effort is made to have an FSA employee available during normal business hours, there may be times when that is not possible. As we head into the fall season and the start of 2014 crop reporting, please be sure to call ahead or make an appointment before visiting the county office. This will ensure that an FSA employee is available to assist you.

~ Kelly

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# 2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the 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.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA is holding an 2013 election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 which includes the following towns: Claremont, Charlestown, Unity, Newport, Sunapee, and Goshen.

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

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP is a voluntary program that reduces the risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. An eligible natural disaster is any of the following:

- Damaging weather, such as: drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as: earthquake or flood;
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as: excessive heat, plant disease, volcanic smog (VOG), insect infestation; or
- Any combination of these conditions

The natural disaster must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop.

A service fee of 250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Eligibility for NAP coverage is based on a proven history of crop production or on an expected yield for the county. Each unit has an actual production history (APH). A loss greater than 50 percent of the established APH will be covered. Payments are made at 55% of the average market price for the crop. The average market price is set by the NH State FSA Committee.

The application closing dates are:

- September 1 - Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture
  - **September 30 - All Forage Crops**
  - November 20 - Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, caneberries, and more)
  - December 1 - Maple Sap and Honey
  - March 15 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops
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## Succession in Interest for DCP

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, 2013, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

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## Beginning Farmers and Limited Resource Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers and or 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.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

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## Dates to Remember

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

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

**Sept 30** - NAP Purchase Deadline for Forage Crops

**Oct 14** - Columbus Day Holiday (Office Closed)

**Nov 15** - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 crop year - Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall-Seeded Small Grains

**Nov 20** - NAP Purchase Deadline for Perennial Crops

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## Interest Rates

### Selected Interest Rates for September 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 1.875%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 4.0%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.00%

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