

November 2013



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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office Topics for November

11 Industrial Park Drive
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: 603-756-2970, ext 2
Fax: 603-756-2978
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

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

Next County Committee Meeting: December 5, 2013
at 6:00 PM

NH-Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
Brian.Kuper@vt.usda.gov
Phone: 603-223-6003

Farm Loans:
The Concord Center
10 Ferry St, Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaches

Acreage reports are required for many of our Farm Service Agency programs. 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.

The deadline for reporting **2014 perennial forage, fall forage seedings and fall-seeded small grains is November 15, 2013.** However, late reports will be accepted and no late file fee will be assessed if 2014 perennial forage is reported before January 15, 2013. Please contact the office as soon as possible to report crop acreage for these 2014 crops.

We appreciate the efforts made by Cheshire-Sullivan County producers to report your crop acreage by visiting the office and/or corresponding with the office via phone, fax, and e-mail. Please be sure to call ahead and make an appointment to ensure that an FSA employee will be available to assist you.

The NH Farm Service Agency has established the following acreage reporting deadlines for the 2014 Crop Year:

Nov. 15, 2013 - Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Jan. 2, 2014 - Honey

Phone: 603-223-6003

Jan. 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

Feb. 15, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding,
and All Other Crops

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **Dec. 2, 2013**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 2, 2013.

The election of agricultural producers to the 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 USDA.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Leo Hunter, Claremont, is nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, Sullivan County, to serve as a committee member. LAA 2 represents the following towns: Claremont, Charlestown, Unity, Newport, Goshen, and Sunapee.

Eligible voters in this area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

NAP Purchase Deadline

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program offered by Farm Service Agency 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.

The application closing dates for 2014 crops in Cheshire-Sullivan County are:

Sept. 1, 2013 - Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture

Sept. 30, 2013 - All Forage Crops

Nov. 20, 2013 - Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, caneberries, peaches, and more)

Dec. 2, 2013 - Maple Sap and Honey

Mar. 15, 2014 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops

Farm Reconstitutions and Record Changes

Please contact the county office whenever you have a change to the land you operate in Cheshire & Sullivan County. It is important to keep farm records up-to-date in order to remain eligible for FSA programs. Changes might include purchasing new land, ownership changes, renting a new piece of property, or ending a lease on a particular property.

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place a farm reconstitution might be necessary. The reconstitution or 'recon' is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming

operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP).

- **Estate Method** - the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** - may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** - the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** - the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers, limited resource, 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.

The Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination Tool is available at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. Visit the website to determine your eligibility as a Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher for a particular Federal fiscal year, (October 1 – September 30).

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her 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 only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Dates to Remember

Nov 11 - Veterans 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

Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

Dec 2 - NAP Purchase Deadline for Maple Sap and Honey

Dec 2 - Last day to return voted ballots to the FSA County Office

Dec 5 - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Meeting and Election

Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for November 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.125%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 4.25%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.00%

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).