

October 2013



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## Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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

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

**Next County Committee Meeting:** December, 5, 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  
Concord, NH 03301

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### County Executive Director (CED) Comments

As many of you may have heard, Farm Service Agency (FSA) was affected by the government shutdown that occurred from October 1st through 16th. There is now an enacted Fiscal Year 2014 continuing resolution that provides funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and FSA. We returned to work on October 17, 2013, and we are in the process of an orderly start-up of farm program and farm loan activities for FY 2014. Thank you for your patience and support during the period that our services were unavailable.

We realize that the temporary lapse in service has created a backlog in requests and service delivery needs. While this backlog was not created overnight and will not be addressed overnight, we are committed to a proactive and customer-focused approach to prioritize activities so that we can provide the service you expect and deserve as quickly as possible. Please contact the county office if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your patience during this period!

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## County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

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

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.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on **Dec. 2, 2013**.

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## Upcoming Acreage Reporting Deadline

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**. This is a change in deadline that began with the 2013 crop year. 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 in order to be sure 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

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

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## 2013 DCP Final Payments

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) payments for 2013 will be issued in October 2013. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October DCP payments.

If you have any questions about the DCP program or expected payments, please call the county office.

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## **Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit**

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,335,000 on Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Office with questions about farm loans.

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

USDA's Farm Service Agency's 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.

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 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 percent of the average market price for the crop. The average market price is set by the NH State FSA Committee.

The application closing dates for 2014 crops 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, and more)**

Dec. 2, 2013 - Maple Sap and Honey

Mar. 15, 2014 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops

Please call the county office for further information or to make an appointment to signup for coverage.

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## Dates to Remember

**Nov 4** - County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters

**Nov 11** - Veterans Day Holiday (Office Closed)

**Nov 15** - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2013 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

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## Interest Rates

### Selected Interest Rates for October 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 1.875%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 4.125%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.875%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.25%

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