

February 2014



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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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Cheshire-Sullivan County **County Committee Election Results** FSA Office

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 AM - 4:30 PM

County Executive Director:
Kelly Greenbacker
kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:
Chris Bartlett
Timothy Gowen
Leo Hunter
Hank Kenney
Linda Rice

Next County Committee Meeting: Wednesday,
February 19, 2014 at 6:00 PM

NH-Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

County Committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Leo Hunter of Claremont was re-elected to represent LAA 2 which includes Claremont, Charlestown, Unity, Newport, Goshen, and Sunapee. There will be no Alternate for this term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. An organizational meeting will be held in February to determine which members will serve as chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2014

Elected County Committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on February 18, 2014, and join the existing committee.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact your local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates for the 2014 crop year are applicable in New Hampshire:

February 18, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and All other crops

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- **If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date**, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office.

Emergency Loan Assistance Available

On August 2, 2013, a Presidential disaster declaration for Coos, Carroll, Belknap, Merrimack, Hillsborough, **Cheshire, Sullivan**, and Grafton Counties was declared due to severe storms, flooding, and landslides occurring between June 26 and July 3, 2013. Under this emergency designation, producers, operating a farm in one or more of the counties covered, who suffered losses directly tied to the adverse weather conditions, are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) until April 2, 2014.

On November 20, 2013, all of the counties along the Connecticut River were declared a disaster area due to excessive rain and flooding that started on May 5, 2013 and continued throughout the summer and fall of 2013. Under this Secretarial emergency designation, producers who were operating a farm in Coos, Grafton, **Sullivan, and Cheshire Counties** who suffered losses directly tied to the adverse weather conditions are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans available through FSA. The deadline for filing an application under this designation is July 21, 2014.

Emergency loans help farmers recover from both production and physical losses due to flooding, drought, and other natural disasters. Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance.

FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 % of the actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local, county FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP Purchase Deadline - Annual Spring Seeded Crops

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 service fee is \$250 per crop per county. If multiple crops are covered, the maximum fee assessed per producer per county is \$750, not to exceed \$1875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

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

March 15, 2014 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops which could include, but not limited to:
Beans, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Greens, Onions, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Squash, Tomatoes,
and many more

Please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County office as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in the NAP program. More information can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember

Feb 17 - Washington's Birthday Holiday (Office Closed)
Feb 18 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 crop year - Maple Sap
Feb 19 - Cheshire-Sullivan County Committee Meeting
Mar 15 - NAP sign-up deadline - Annual Spring Seeded Crops

Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for February 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Emergency Loans - 3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.375%

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).