

June 2014



Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office **Final 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline**

11 Industrial Park Dr
Walpole, NH 03608

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

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: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 6:00 PM

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

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

In order to comply with FSA 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. **Cheshire-Sullivan County producers are reminded to call the county office when planting is complete to provide necessary information and schedule an appointment.**

The following acreage reporting dates for 2014 crops are applicable for Cheshire-Sullivan Counties:

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, 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 complete
- 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 lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

For question regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County office at (603) 756-2970 ext 2.

Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003

Reminder - Weather Related Losses

Please remember to notify the FSA County Office of any significant weather related losses to crops, livestock, and/or buildings in Cheshire or Sullivan County.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to severe weather to call or visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to tilling and planting an agricultural commodity on any land that has not been determined by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Producers should also notify FSA prior to conducting any land clearing and drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits

Landowners can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to NRCS is necessary.

For more information on these provisions, contact the county office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA County Committee Nomination Period Begins June 15th

The nomination period for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees begins Sunday, June 15, 2014.

"County committees are a vital link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary. "I hope that every eligible farmer and rancher will participate in this year's county committee elections. Through the county committees, farmers and ranchers have a voice; their opinions and ideas get to be heard on federal farm programs."

Vilsack added, "We've seen an increase in the number of nominations of women and minority candidates, and I hope that trend continues."

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The forms and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2014 election must be **postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014**. Elections will take place in the fall.

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they make decisions

on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

The Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee has five Local Administrative Areas (LAA). The LAA's holding an election this year are:

LAA 1 - Plainfield, Cornish, Croydon, Grantham, and Springfield

Linda Rice of Cornish Flat currently represents this area.

LAA 5 - Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Winchester, Swanzey, Troy, Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, and Rindge

Chris Bartlett of Jaffrey currently represents this area.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers 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 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 average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember and June Interest Rates

Dates to Remember

June 10 - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee meeting

June 15 - Nomination period begins for 2014 County Committee elections

July 4 - Independence Day Holiday - Office Closed

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

July 15 - NAP participants: 2013 production reporting deadline for crops covered

Aug 1 - Nomination period ends for 2014 County Committee elections

Selected Interest Rates for June 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.25%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.00%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer - 1.50%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Joint Financing - 2.50%

Emergency Loans - 3.25%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.25%

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).

