

March 2014



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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office **NAP Purchase Deadline - Annual Spring Seeded Crops**

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

Next County Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 15,

The 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 catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP is a voluntary program that reduces risk of financial loss when natural disaster cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. An eligible natural disaster may include:

- 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, 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.

To participate in NAP, producers pay an annual service fee of \$250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per producer per county per crop year. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875 per crop year.

2014 at 6:00 PM

Limited Resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

NH-Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loans:

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

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% 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 annually by the NH State FSA Committee.

Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of the date the loss became apparent.

The NAP application closing date for Annual Spring Seeded Crops is March 17, 2014.

Please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County office as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in the NAP program.

2014 County Committee Structure

The Cheshire-Sullivan County Committee held its annual organizational meeting on February 26, 2014. The county committee voted, and Timothy Gowen, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, will serve as Chairperson. Leo Hunter, LAA 2, will serve as Vice-Chairperson. Chris Bartlett, LAA 5; Hank Kenney, LAA 4; and Linda Rice, LAA 1 will continue to serve as county committee members.

County Committee (COC) meetings will be held, as needed, monthly at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Dates and Times are subject to change. The next COC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the USDA Service Center in Walpole.

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. COC members are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. For more information about county committees and the election process, contact the local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Attention Farm Loan Borrowers

There is a new state statute requiring the name on your photo identification (e.g., driver's license) match with the name used to file a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). This UCC is put in place when you request a loan from FSA and renewed every 5 years. The UCC is a blanket lien taken against your chattels, equipment, etc. that you may have pledged for security.

The NH FSA Farm Loan Office is requesting that all borrowers send a copy of your photo identification to their office in Concord. Please mail a copy to; USDA/FSA, 10 Ferry St, Box 212, Concord, NH 03301.

If it is more convenient, you may stop by your local FSA County Office. County Office Staff can copy your license and send the copy directly to the Concord Office. You could also either fax a copy of your license to 603-223-6030, or scan and email a copy of your license to sandra.carter@nh.usda.gov.

Please submit a copy of your license to the NH Farm Loan Office no later than **March 31, 2014**.

New Farm Bill Provides Permanent Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2014 Farm Bill, formally known as the *Agricultural Act of 2014*, makes the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) permanent programs and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought and fire. LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

USDA is determined to make implementing the livestock disaster programs a top priority and plans to open program enrollment by April 15, 2014.

As USDA begins implementing the livestock disaster assistance programs, producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
- Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters
- Evidence of damaged farm land

Many producers still have questions. USDA is in the process of interpreting Farm Bill program regulations. Additional information will be provided once the enrollment period is announced. In the meantime, producers can review the [LIP and LFP Fact Sheets](#). Thanks for your patience as USDA works diligently to put Farm Bill programs into action to benefit the farmers and ranchers of rural America.

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. For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) 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 small 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 who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

Dates to Remember

Mar 17 - NAP purchase deadline - Annual Spring Seeded Crops

Mar 31 - Deadline for current FSA borrowers submit copy of license to NH FSA Farm Loan Office

Apr 2 - Application deadline for Emergency Loan Assistance due to June/July 2013 severe storms/flooding

Apr 15 - Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Committee Meeting

Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for March 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.25%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.25%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Joint Financing - 2.50%

Emergency Loans - 3.25%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.125%

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).