

## GRAFTON COUNTY – SPRING 2011

**April 2011**

COC Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
Every Month at 11:30 am

Grafton County  
FSA Office  
19 Archertown Rd – Ste 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
603-353-4650 phone  
603-353-4647 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

### Grafton County Staff

Steven Schmidt,  
County Executive Director

Tara Hamlett,  
Program Technician

Joanne Fullerton,  
Program Technician

### ECP Signup Announced

Grafton County has been approved for an ECP signup. An ice and snow storm that occurred on March 6 and 7, 2011 has caused damage to some maple orchards in Grafton County. Maple producers suffering damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by FSA. Qualifying damage includes damage that would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the sugar bush to productive use
- be unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the sugar bush
- impair or endanger the land.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from maple orchards
- restoring and /or replacing maple sap taps and tubing

**PRODUCERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS FROM THIS STORM MAY CONTACT THE GRAFTON COUNTY FSA OFFICE AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM APRIL 11, 2011 TO MAY 13, 2011.**

### ACRE

The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. June 1, 2011 is the sign-up deadline.

USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a five year average state yield and the most recent two year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total historical base on the farm. For participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

### ACREAGE REPORTING

**!!IMPORTANT!! WE ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO MAIL PRODUCERS THEIR ACREAGE REPORTS, THEREFORE ALL PRODUCERS WHO WISH TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT FOR 2011 NEED TO CALL THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO FILE THEIR ACREAGE REPORT(S).**

Acreege reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. The deadline for crop reports is JULY 15, 2011.

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.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

## **2011 DCP Signup**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract. USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. For more information on this or other FSA programs, contact the Grafton County FSA Office, 19 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH 03777 or call 603-353-4650.

## **Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429;

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547;

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506.

## **EFRP Sign Up Announced**

Two severe windstorms occurring July 21, 2010 and November 8, 2010 have caused damage in the western areas of Grafton County. **Producers who have suffered a loss from either one of these events may apply for assistance from March 21, 2011 to April 22, 2011.** Nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) administered by the Grafton County Farm Service Agency. Qualifying damage is damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on NIPF land, if left untreated would:

- impair or endanger the natural resources on the land,
- and materially affect the use of the land.

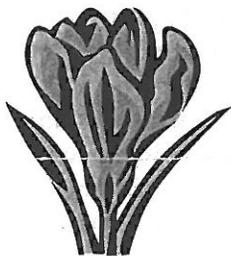
A producer qualifying for EFRP assistance may receive financial assistance levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of the restoration measures. The emergency measures must restore forest health and forest-related resources. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing storm debris from NIPF site preparation on NIPF,
- seeding down skid roads and landings,
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations.

**To sign up for EFRP, please contact the Grafton County Farm Service Agency, 19 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH or give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).**

## **SURE**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster through Sept. 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Grazed acreage is not eligible for the NAP program. Crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage. See the local FSA office for details.



## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS "FSA COUNTS ON YOU"

County Committees play a crucial role in helping FSA deliver farm programs at the local level.

**August 1, 2011** is the deadline to receive Nominating Petitions for this year's election for LAA 1. Towns included in LAA 1 are:

Bath, Monroe, Lyman, Littleton, Lisbon, Sugar Hill, Landaff, Easton, Franconia, Bethlehem, and Lincoln.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter.

To be eligible to hold office as a County Committee member a person must meet the following requirements:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA;
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election; and
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.
- A person must not have been removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- A person must not have been removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony; or dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

If you are qualified to vote, you may nominate yourself or another producer. A candidate must sign the nomination form and certify that he or she is willing to serve if elected.

Nomination forms to serve on the County Committee will be accepted until close of business on August 1, 2011.

### Important Election Dates:

**August 1, 2011** - Last day to file nomination forms

**November 4, 2011** - Ballots mailed to eligible producers

**December 5, 2011** - Last day to mail ballots

**January 1, 2012** - New COC members to take office.

## EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

**The EFRP signup has been extended for 2 weeks – signup now ends May 6, 2011.** Two severe windstorms occurring July 21, 2010 and November 8, 2010 have caused damage in the western areas of Grafton County. Producers who have suffered a loss from either one of these events may apply for assistance from March 21, 2011 to **May 6, 2011.** Nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) administered by the Grafton County Farm Service Agency. To sign up for EFRP, please contact us at 19 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH 03777 or give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

**FSA-669A**

(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

## NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

**Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2011.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## **Beginning and Limited Resource Loans**

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers 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 that 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.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



## **Direct and Guaranteed Loans**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so a loan can be processed in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff or call the FLP office in Concord at 223-6003.

## **Cold Storage Facility Loans**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## **Farm Record Changes**

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1, 2011.

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

Producers who have purchased the NAP coverage must keep in mind that they need to give us their 2010 final production. Once we receive your final production, we can then calculate your actual production history (APH). You still have time to get us this information, but the sooner the better!! Give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2) if you have any questions

Grafton County FSA Office  
19 Archertown Rd – Ste 1  
Orford, NH 03777



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Orford, NH  
PERMIT #30

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Dean Bascom, NRCS District Conservationist, is retiring. The USDA Service Center in Orford, NH will be holding an Open House on April 28, 2011 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please feel free to stop by and wish Dean well in his retirement. We will all miss his experience and common sense approach to getting work done on the ground.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
April 15	CRP General Signup Ends
April 22	EFRP Sign up Ends
May 13	ECP Sign up Ends
May 30	Office Closed - Holiday
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	ACRE Signup Ends
June 1	2011 DCP Enrollment Ends
July 4	Office Closed - Holiday
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline

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