

January 2014



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Topics for January

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Grafton County, NH FSA Updates

Grafton County FSA Office

19 Archertown Rd
Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777
Phone: 603-353-4650
Fax: 603-353-4647

Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

County Executive Director:
Steven Schmidt
steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov

Program Technicians:
Tara Hamlett
tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov

Joanne Fullerton
joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov

District Director:
Keith Farrell

Ever Dream About Becoming a Farmer?

Ever dream about becoming a farmer? Ever feel defeated before you get started, because you didn't know where you could find the money? Are you a veteran looking to get into farming? Ever wonder how you could protect yourself against crop losses? Ever wish you could have more storage space for your crop?

Well, if you have wondered about any of these things, plan to join the New Hampshire Farm Service Agency at the Farm and Forest Exposition on February 7, 2014. We will be having a workshop to explain our farm loan programs, conservation programs, farm storage facilities, and disaster assistance programs. This is the session to answer all the questions you have been afraid to ask!

The workshop will be held in the Pierce Room on Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be presentations, discussions, and plenty of time for questions.

Come see us at the Expo!! We'll be waiting for you!!

For more information, call us at 603-224-7941 and ask for Marilyn.

keith.farrell@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:

David Clement
Jacqueline Lewis
Shirley Tullar

**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
Fax: 603-223-6030

County Committee Meetings:

The next COC meeting is
February 20, 2014 @ 11:00 am

USDA Rural Development Seeking Applications for its Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG) Program

The deadline for applications under USDA Rural Development's VAPG program is February 24, 2014. The primary objective of the VAPG program is to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals of this program. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain, as defined in the Program Regulation. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The maximum grant is \$75,000 for planning grants and \$200,000 for working capital grants. Producers must match the grant funds requested with cash or eligible in-kind funds. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html. Contact your servicing USDA Rural Development office for assistance. For Grafton County call 603-447-3318 (ext 5).

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Selected January Interest Rates

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%.

Dates to Remember

February 7&8, 2014 Farm & Forest Expo
February 17, 2014 Holiday - Office Closed
February 18, 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Maple Sap

February 20, 2014 COC Meeting

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).