



NEWSLETTER



December 2012

Emergency Conservation Program – Merrimack County

**Merrimack
Belknap
Hillsborough
County
FSA Office**

The Concord Center
10 Ferry Street
Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

603-223-6003 phone
603-223-6030 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee
Members**

Charles Price, Chair
Martha Crete, Vice-
Chair
William Hall Jr.,
Member
Eric Tenney, Member

**County Farm
Program Staff**

Donna Juneau,
County Executive
Director
Melinda Marston,
Program Technician
Anne Helmers,
Program Technician

NH Farm Loan Staff

Lorna Wakefield,
Farm Loan Officer
Rebecca Davis,
Farm Loan Officer
William Wilson,
Farm Loan Officer
Sandra Carter,
Program Technician

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. An ECP for storm damage to farms in Merrimack County associated with the July 4, 2012 severe storm event has been approved but is not funded. It is our understanding that we are “at the top of the list” for funding, however, funding is currently not available. The County Committee has requested \$50,000 to fund the program. We will inform all producers who signed up for ECP during the October 1 through October 30 sign up period when funding becomes available for this program.

New Crop Reporting Deadlines

All producers are reminded that the crop reporting deadlines for some crops have changed for **Crop Year 2013**. Fall forage seeding, fall-seeded small grains, and perennial forage were required to be reported by **November 15, 2012** for the 2013 crop year. Additional upcoming deadlines for crop reporting include:

2013 CROP	REPORTING DATE
Honey	January 2, 2013
Apples, Peaches and Nectarines	January 15, 2013
Maple Sap	February 15, 2012

Please stop by the office or call us at 223-6003 to report your 2013 crops. Thank you to all of our producers for your cooperation in meeting the new deadlines.

County Committee Make Up Election

Ballots for this year’s County Committee Make-Up election for LAA-3, which includes the towns of Allenstown, Belmont, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Epsom, Hooksett, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke and Pittsfield, will be mailed out on January 7, 2013. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by close of business on February 4, 2013. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight February 4, 2013.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA-3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements: Individuals meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity
- Both spouses when property is owned jointly
- Spouses in community property states.

2. Is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Hurricane Sandy



“Super Storm” Hurricane Sandy blew in on Monday, October 29 dropping 0.75 inches of rain in the Concord area with winds averaging about 16 miles per hour (mph) and spiking at 28 mph. Tuesday brought another 0.5 inches of rain and winds averaging about 14 mph and spiking at 26 mph. The winds and rain of Sandy caused a number of trees to fall throughout our three counties and many people were without power for a period of days. Reports received from agricultural producers; County Committee Members; and agricultural service providers in the field (including UNH Cooperative Extension and NRCS District Offices) indicate that there was no significant damage to agricultural land as a result of the storm.

Overall, reports received indicate that the three counties generally sustained light damage to farmland in the form of deadwood, small branches and limbs blown onto fields, and small portions of crops in the field (i.e., a few partial rows grain corn or field corn) being blown over in the wind.

The County Committee determined that the damage to our three counties did not appear to be significant enough to request implementation of the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP).

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in their communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, people seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's news release click on the following link:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usda/home?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentid_only=true

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss in order to be eligible.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.

Expiration of the MILC Program

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program expired at the end of the 2012 fiscal year (i.e., the end of September 2012). It is not expected to be renewed in the new/upcoming Farm Bill. The MILC program provided price support in the form of payments to participating dairy farmers on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price fell below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. MILC payments were issued for the months of February through August 2012. Please note that there was a “zero” MILC payment calculated for the month of September, therefore, no payment was issued for September production.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Expiration of the DCP Program

The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) expired at the end of the 2012 fiscal year and is not expected to be renewed in the new/upcoming Farm Bill. The DCP program was an income safety net for farmers. The last DCP payments were issued in October 2012.

Shape Your Farm Programs

Your answers to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2012 Census of Agriculture impacts farm programs and services. Do your part and be counted. There is strength in numbers. Fill out your agriculture census. Visit: www.agcensus.usda.gov

Merrimack-Belknap-
Hillsborough County FSA
Office
10 Ferry Street,
Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Concord, NH
PERMIT # 0000

Selected Interest Rates for December 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing	5.00%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency – Amount of Actual Loss	2.125%
Conservation Loan	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%

Dates to Remember	
December 25	Office Closed – Christmas Holiday
January 1	Office Closed – New Year’s Holiday
January 7	Ballots Mailed to LAA-3 Eligible Voters for Make Up Election
January 15	Crop Reporting Deadline for Apples, Peaches and Nectarines
January 21	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday Holiday
February 4	Final Day to Return Ballots for LAA-3 Make Up Election
February 8	County Committee Meeting – Public is Welcome
February 15	Crop Reporting Deadline for Maple Sap
February 18	Office Closed – George Washington’s Birthday Holiday
March 25	End of Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period
April 17	County Committee Meeting –Public is Welcome
June 7	Deadline for 2011 SURE Applications

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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.