

August 2013



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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates

August 2013

Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office

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

Phone: 603-223-6003
Fax: 603-223-6030

www.fsa.usda.gov/NH
Hours

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

County Executive Director:
Donna Juneau
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603-223-6003

Program Technicians:
Melinda Marston
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NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
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603-223-6003

NH Farm Loan Officers:

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at the disaster assistance program page
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>.

Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time. FSA employees care about their customers, and want to remind them to practice farm safety.

Remember to walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety

Lorna Wakefield
Rebecca Davis
William Wilson

**NH Farm Loan Program
Technician:**
Sandra Carter

County Committee Members:
Martha Crete, Chair
Eric Tenney, Vice-Chair
William Hall Jr., Member
Robert Potter Jr., Member
Jane Presby, Member

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** September 20, 2013
at 10:00 AM - USDA Conference
Room 211

tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2013 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, and deficiency loans, for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program or other relevant program.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact a local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

* Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost

of any related real estate taxes and insurance.

* Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

Contacting Your Local FSA Office

The Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency can be contacted by voice mail or email 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have need to contact FSA outside of regular office hours, please call 603-223-6003 and leave a message with your name and phone contact information, or email our office at MBHCOUNTYFSA@nh.usda.gov. A representative of FSA will contact you as soon as possible during the next regular business hours.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2013:

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 1.50%

Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 3.625%

Emergency Loans- 2.50%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)- 2.00%

Dates to Remember:

September 1, 2013 - Closing Date for NAP Sign Up for Value Loss Crops and Fall Seeded Garlic

September 2, 2013 - Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)

September 20, 2013 - County Committee Meeting (10:00 am in USDA Conference Room 211)

September 30, 2013 - Closing Date for NAP Sign Up for Forage Crops

Nov. 4, 2013 - COC election ballots mailed to eligible voters

Nov. 20, 2013 - Closing Date for NAP Sign Up for Perennial Crops

Dec. 1, 2013 - Closing Date for NAP Sign Up for Honey and Maple Sap

Dec. 2, 2013 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

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).