

February 2014



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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates

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
donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov
603-223-6003

Program Technicians:
Melinda Marston
melinda.marston@nh.usda.gov

County Committee Election Results

County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Martha Crete of Boscawen was re-elected to represent LAA 2. Eric Tenney of Antrim was re-elected to represent LAA 4. Congratulations to Martha and Eric. We appreciate your continued service on the county committee.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

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.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact your local FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Anne Helmers
anne.helmers@nh.usda.gov

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov
603-223-6003

NH Farm Loan Officers:

Lorna Wakefield
Rebecca Davis
William Wilson

NH Farm Loan Program Technician:

Sandra Carter

County Committee Members:

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

Next County Committee Meeting:

February 28, 2014
at 10:00 am - USDA
Conference
Room 211

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Merrimack, Belknap and Hillsborough Counties for 2014 Crops:

November 15, 2013 – Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

January 2, 2014 – Honey

January 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

February 15, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 – Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 – Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

A late file fee will not be assessed for any 2014 crops with a final reporting date on or after October 1, 2013. The late file fee will be waived until December 31, 2014.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office 24 hours a day by sending us a fax, an e-mail, or leaving a voice mail message. Our office phone number is 223-6003; our fax number is 223-6030; and our office e-mail is MBHCountyFSA@nh.usda.gov

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

The Non-Insured 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 the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP is a voluntary

program that reduces risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planted 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. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. 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 percent 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 by the NH State FSA Committee.

NAP application closing dates are:

September 1 – Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture

September 30 – All Forage Crops

November 20 – Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, cherries, etc.)

December 1 – Maple Sap and Honey

March 15 – Annual Spring Seeded Crops

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. New loan terms of 7, 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 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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

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

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2014:

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 2.00%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 4.25%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing – 5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50 %
Emergency Loans- 3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.375%

Dates to Remember:

February 17, 2014 - George Washington's Birthday Federal Holiday (Offices Closed)
February 28, 2014 – County Committee Meeting
March 9, 2014 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15, 2014 – NAP Sign Up Deadline for Annual Spring Seeded Crops
May 26, 2014 Memorial Day Federal Holiday (Office Closed)

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).