

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rockingham & Strafford County FSA
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**Service Center Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Excluding Federal Holidays**

**Farm Service Agency
County Committee
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Judith Merrill, Vice-chair
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Katherine McPhee
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County Committee Elections

As a result of land use changes, new farmers and programs available, a realignment of Local Administrative Areas' (LAA) was needed.

This year an election in each LAA will take place. The current COC members will fulfill their position through December of this year.

Nominations will be taken in all LAA's for COC members. A nomination form, FSA-669A, is enclosed with this newsletter. The form is due in the county office or post-marked by August 1, 2011. Ballots will be mailed November 4, 2011. Elected COC members will take office on January 1, 2012.

Elections will take place for the following:

- LAA 1: 2 year term
Milton, Middleton, New Durham, Farmington, and Rochester
- LAA 2: 3 year term
Somersworth, Rollinsford, Dover, Madbury, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket
- LAA 3: 3 year term
Strafford, Barrington, Northwood, Deerfield and Nottingham
- LAA 4: 2 year term
Candia, Raymond, Epping, Fremont, Chester, Auburn, Londonderry, Derry, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, Hampstead South Hampton, Newton, Plaistow, Atkinson, Salem, and Windham.
- LAA 5: 1 year term
Newington, Portsmouth, New Castle, Greenland, Stratham, Newfields, Brentwood, Exeter, East Kingston, Kensington, Hampton Falls, Rye, Seabrook, Hampton, and North Hampton

NH Agricultural Mediation Program

Mediation services are available free to the agricultural community in New Hampshire through the non-profit Environmental Mediation Center.

Mediation is a process in which two or more parties meet with an impartial person to assist them with the negotiation of their differences. This process is a voluntary and confidential alternative to legal or regulatory options. The mediator does not have decision making authority and does not determine who is legally right or wrong, but helps by facilitating a calm and rational discussion, clarifying issues, exploring options and recording any agreement reached.

What kind of agricultural disputes can mediated? Adverse decisions by a USDA agency such as farm and rural development loan decisions; pesticide issues; conflicts with neighbors; financial conflicts within farm families or other disputes that are related to agriculture.

For more information contact the NHAMP at PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302 or call (800) 511-2213.

Acreage Reports

A reminder to producers who participate in DCP or NAP. An acreage report must be filed annually to maintain eligibility.

Call the office at (603) 679-4656 x 2 to set up an appointment to file. Reports must be in by Friday, July 15th.



June is Dairy Month

Thank you to all the dairy farmers !



USDA Announces Process to Resolve Discrimination Claims Of Hispanic and Women Farmers

Farm Service Agency is informing farmers and producers that USDA has established a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege past discrimination can now participate in a claims process in which they may receive compensation. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

The program provides up to \$50,000 for each Hispanic or woman farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for a discriminatory reason for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive a \$50,000 reward. Successful claimants are also eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.

Also, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal service provider.

Dates to Remember:

July 4th - Independence Day; Office closed

July 15th - Acreage reports due

August 1 - Nominations due for County Committee

September 5th - Labor Day; Office closed

November 4th - Voting begins for County Committee

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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.”