

June 2013



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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

629 Calef Highway
Epping, NH 03042

Phone: 603-679-4656
Fax: 603-679-4658

County Executive Director:
Carol Sargent
carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov

Program Technician:
Cyndy Schadler
cyndy.schadler@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:
Richard Babcock, Chair
Judith Merrill, Vice-Chair
Mary Current, Member
Wayne Elwood, Member
Glenn Pierce, Member

Farm Loans:
The Concord Center
10 ferry St
Suite 212, Box 212
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003
Fax: 603-223-6030

Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov
Phone: 603-223-6003

Farm Loan Officers:
Rebecca Davis
Lorna Wakefield

2013 FSA County Committee Elections

County Committee (COC) nominations will be taking place for two Local Administrative Areas: LAA 1 and LAA 4. Towns within LAA 1 include New Durham, Middleton, Milton, Farmington and Rochester. Towns within LAA 4 include Candia, Raymond, Epping, Auburn, Chester, Fremont, Londonderry, Derry, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, Windham, Salem, Atkinson, Hampstead, Plaistow, Newton and South Hampton.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013. LAA Maps and County Committee Nomination forms are available at the Rockingham-Strafford County Office or nomination forms can be accessed in Spanish or English versions on the internet through the following web links:
o For English:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf o For Spanish:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_es_130405v01.pdf

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

William Wilson

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

- June 17, 2013 – The nomination period begins
- Aug. 1, 2013 – This is the last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center
- Nov. 4, 2013 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 2, 2013 – Last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center
- Jan. 1, 2014 – Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election – Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member."

Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information and to obtain LAA maps and nomination forms.

Acreage and Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops

and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Corn, fresh market sweet corn, spring forage seeding and all other crops (excluding honey, apples, peaches, nectarines, maple sap and ornamental nursery) must be certified by July 15, 2013. Perennial forage reports for the current crop year were due on November 15, 2012. For the 2013 crop year only, perennial forage reports will be accepted until September 15, 2013 with no late-filed fee.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Bank Account Changes

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Interest Rates for June 2013

Farm Operating Loans — Direct including Microloans 1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Emergency Loans 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 year 1.250%

Dates to Remember

June 17 through August 1 - COC nomination period opens
July 4 - Holiday, office closed
July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and All Other Crops
Aug. 2 - DCP sign-up Ends

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).