

July 2013



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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

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Epping, NH 03042

Phone: 603-679-4656
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County Executive Director:
Carol Sargent
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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

Next COC Meeting:
Monday, Sept. 9 @ 12:30 PM

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

County Committee Nomination Period Ends August 1st

The deadline to submit your nomination form (FSA-669A) to run for the Rockingham-Strafford County Committee is almost here. Nomination form FSA-669A must be received in the office or postmarked no later than August 1st.

If you live and farm in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 which includes New Durham, Middleton, Milton, Farmington and Rochester; or LAA 4 including Candia, Raymond, Epping, Auburn, Chester, Fremont, Londonderry, Derry, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, Windham, Salem, Atkinson, Hampstead, Plaistow, Newton and South Hampton, you are eligible to hold office if you participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA and are eligible to vote.

County Committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the County Committee reflect the diversity of the producers it represents. Members provide local input for emergency programs, payment eligibility, disaster payments, and conservation programs. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws and apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

For more information or to obtain a Nomination Form FSA-669A, contact the Epping Office at 603-679-4656 x 2.

June Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans, Direct 1.250%
including Microloans
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct 3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Farm Ownership, Down Payment 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 year 1.50%

Farm Loan Officers:

Rebecca Davis
Lorna Wakefield
William Wilson

DCP Sign-up Ends August 2nd

The sign-up period for DCP is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline.

Crop Reporting Deadline Extended

Acreage reports for FSA are considered timely this year when filed at the county office by the new applicable final crop reporting deadline of Aug. 2, 2013. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

While FSA is able to extend its deadline, RMA's acreage reporting date remains July 15, 2013, for most spring planted crops in the country. Farmers are reminded to contact their insurance agent if they have any questions about coverage, prevented planting, or for reporting and processing a claim.

Filing for 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.

2013 Financial Assistance Program (FAP)

FAP funding will be provided to producers in New Hampshire who purchase buy-up insurance policies for the 2013 crop year with acreage reporting or inventory value reporting dates prior to September 30, 2013. Policies not eligible for financial assistance include all catastrophic risk protection policies, and any policies or endorsements insured under the Livestock Risk Protection and Livestock Gross Margin plans of insurance.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) will provide a fixed premium reduction of \$225.00 per crop policy for eligible producers. If the total producer-paid premium per crop policy is less than \$225.00, the amount of premium reduction will be capped at 100 percent of producer-paid premium for the crop policy. No portion of any administrative fee will be paid under the FAP.

No additional application is necessary to qualify for the FAP. Financial assistance will be applied automatically to all applicable crop policies which meet the eligibility criteria outlined.

For billing purposes, Approved Insurance Providers (AIP) will either deduct the amount of financial assistance from the producer premium on the billing statement, or note on the billing statement that the producer premium will be subject to a refund based on the final amount of financial assistance provided. In the event that participation results in the projected total expenditures for financial assistance exceeding the \$5,694,000 appropriation, it will be reduced on a pro-rata basis

Emergency Conservation Program

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- Impair or endanger the land;
- Materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- Represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- Be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.
Emergency Conservation Practices

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices such as:

- Debris removal from farmland;
- Grading, shaping, or leveling land;
- Restoring livestock fences and conservation structures and;
- Providing water for livestock during periods of severe drought.

Other conservation measures may be authorized by FSA county committees with approval from FSA state committees and the FSA national office.

Producers should inquire with their FSA county office regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are established by FSA county committees.

Dates to Remember

June 17 through August 1 - COC Nomination Period
August 2 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and All Other Crops
Aug. 2 - DCP Sign-up Ends
Aug. 2 - 2012 NAP Production Due
Sept. 2 - Labor Day, Office Closed
Continues - Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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