

May 2014



Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

629 Calef Highway
Epping, NH 03042

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

Phone: 603-679-4656 x 2
Fax: 603-679-4658

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

County Committee:
Richard Babcock, Chair
Judith Merrill, Vice-Chair
Mary Current, Member
Daniel Hicks III, Member
Glenn Pierce, Member

Next COC Meeting:
May 19, 2014 at 12:30 PM

Acting Farm Loan Manager:

CED Notes

Spring is a busy time of year for farmers and for this FSA office. As we roll out the Farm Bill programs there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention, please call the office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women,

Brian Kuper
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brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Farm Loan Officers:

Rebecca Davis
Lorna Wakefield
William Wilson

County Committee Nominations

COC elections provide farmers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by serving on their local FSA COC. All farmers are encouraged to consider running for COC seats.

The nomination period begins June 15, 2014 and ends August 1, 2014. Nomination form (FSA-669A) may be obtained at the FSA office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Two Local Administrative Areas (LAA) are holding elections: LAA-2, comprised of the towns of Dover, Durham, Lee, Madbury, Newmarket, Rollinsford and Somersworth, and; LAA-3 with Deerfield, Northwood, Nottingham, Strafford and Barrington.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2014.

The nomination and election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GovDelivery Customers NOT Impacted by the Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

Request for Soybean Referendum

USDA will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

Soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the Soybean Checkoff Program are invited to participate. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2013.

To participate, eligible persons may obtain LS-51-1 in-person, by mail, FAX, or telephone from their local FSA office. Persons may also obtain LS-51-1 through the Internet at

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/SoybeaninformationontheSoybeanRequestforReferendum>. On the Research and Promotion Programs Screen that will be displayed, under "I Want To", CLICK "Go to the Soybean Referendum Form 51-1 - PDF".

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate FSA county office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 30, 2014. If returned by mail, it must be postmarked by midnight May 30, 2014, and received in the office by close of business on June 5, 2014.

Producers who don't participate in FSA programs can still request a referendum at the FSA county office where they own or rent land.

Selected Interest Rates for May

Farm Operating, Direct including Microloans: 2.125%
Farm Ownership, Direct: 4.0%
Farm Ownership, Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer:: 1.5%
Emergency Loan: 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 yr.: 2.25%

Dates to Remember

May 5 through May 30: Soybean request for referendum
May 19: County Committee Meeting
May 26: Memorial Day, office closed
May 30: Last day to make start month changes for MILC
June 2: Acreage reports due for ornamental nursery
June 15: Nomination period begins for County Committee elections in LAAs 2 and 3

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).