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July 2014



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## Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

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### Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

629 Calef Highway  
Epping, NH 03042

Phone: 603-679-4656  
Fax: 1-855-428-0327  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**County Executive Director:**  
Carol Sargent  
[carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov](mailto:carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov)

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

**Next COC Meeting:**  
August 18, 2013 at 12:30 PM

**Acting Farm Loan Manager:**

### Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops. 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.

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### 2012 and 2013 ELAP Losses must be filed by August 1st

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers who

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suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

**Farm Loan Officers:**

Rebecca Davis  
Lorna Wakefield  
William Wilson

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## Disaster Assistance for 2012 Frost or Freeze Fruit Crop Losses

Farmers in Rockingham and Strafford counties who grew fruit on a tree or bush and do not have access to crop insurance are eligible for 2012 NAP assistance for losses due to frost or freeze, or any NAP eligible cause of loss in the 2012 crop year. The program, authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides supplemental NAP payment to eligible producers in a county or contiguous county having a Secretarial Disaster declaration.

Producers are not required to have previously purchased NAP coverage, but must pay the administrative service fee to receive Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Frost Freeze Program (NAPFF) assistance. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited Resource producers may request the service fee be waived. In addition, the 2014 Farm Bill authorized retroactive additional levels of coverage which require payments of premiums in addition to the NAP service fee. Farmers are not required to select the additional coverage level at the time of application. The additional premium will be deducted from any payment calculated. If no payment is due, the producer is not required to pay the premium.

NAPFF enrollment begins July 22, 2014. Applications must be submitted to FSA county offices by Sept. 22, 2014.

To expedite applications, producers who experienced losses are encouraged to collect records documenting these losses in preparation for their sign-up. Please call the county office with any questions.

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## Tree Assistance Program

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

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## Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) initiative is a USDA-wide effort focused on strengthening local and regional food systems.

In recent years, consumers have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally-produced foods and many farmers and ranchers followed the trend and offer fresh foods through local markets.

USDA followed suit, developing KYF2, which helps connect consumers with producers in their community. USDA offers a wide range of programs that can assist farmers, ranchers, businesses, communities and individuals. To learn more about grants, loans and support that is available, visit [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF\\_GRANTS](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANTS).

These USDA programs stimulate economic development in agricultural communities, foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers, promote locally and regionally grown and processed foods, cultivate healthy eating habits and educated consumers, expand access to affordable fresh and local food and develop a connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

For more information on KYF2, visit

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

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## Downpayment Program

FSA has a special loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm. Retiring farmers may use this program to transfer their land to future generations.

To qualify:

The applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price.

The maximum loan amount does not exceed 45 percent of the least of (a) the purchase price of the farm or ranch to be acquired; (b) the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired or; (c) \$667,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan amount of \$300,000).

The term of the loan is 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct FO rate, but not lower than 1.5 percent.

The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95-percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.

Financing from participating lenders must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

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## Selected Interest Rates for July

Farm Operating, Direct including Microloans: 2.125%

Farm Ownership, Direct: 3.875%

Farm Ownership, Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer:: 1.50%

Emergency Loan: 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 yr.: 2.125%

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## Dates to Remember

June 15 - August 1: Nomination period for COC elections

July 22 - September 22: Enrollment period for NAPFF  
August 1: ELAP applications for 2012 and 2013 losses due  
August 18: County Committee Meeting  
September 1- Labor Day Holiday, office closed

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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).



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If you have questions about FSA activities, please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or you may also [Search](#) our web site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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