



January 2010

# Rhode Island Farm Service Agency

## Rhode Island County FSA

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49  
Warwick, RI 02886

### Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 am-4:30 pm

### Phone

401-828-3120 Option 1  
Or 1-800-551-5144  
Farm Loan: Option 2  
Fax: 401-821-0780

### COC Members

The next COC meeting will be held on January 13, 2010.

### County Committee

Ruth James-Chairperson  
Vincent Confreda-Vice-Chair  
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member  
George Goulart Jr.-Member  
Doreen Pezza-Member

### County Office Staff

Melissa Turrisi, CED  
Anne Belleville, PT  
Devon Marsden, PT  
Leila Naylor, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Roxanne Boisse, FLM  
Sandy Ford, FLA  
Katie Ryan, FLOT

## County Committee Elections

Thanks to all who participated in the County Committee election in LAA # 1 Providence County this year.

Congratulations to Doreen Pezza, our newly elected committee member! The first alternate is Clayton Wright and second alternate is Robin Meek.

On January 1, 2010 newly elected committee members and alternates take office.

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099G's detailing payments producers have received from FSA. These reports are mailed from FSA's Kansas City Office; please watch your mail for your report.

If you do not receive a CCC-1099G, or it does not match your records, contact our office immediately so that corrective action can be taken. It is important that the 1099G is accurate, since the data is reported to the Internal Revenue Service. **Please remember, refunds made to FSA will not show on your CCC-1099G.** If you need a CCC-1099G Refund Report, please contact your FSA county office.

## Limited Resource Producer

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and services.

A limited resource farmer or rancher status may be determined by using the web site for USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool located at <http://www.lrfatool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>.



## DCP and ACRE Signup Continues

Enrollment for the 2010 **Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)** will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

**The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)** provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may

not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

## SURE

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create the Supplemental Revenue assistance program (SURE).

The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

*Additional information about all programs included in this newsletter is available at county FSA offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)*

## BCAP

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

## Beginning Farmers Loans

The Rhode Island county office has \$1,393,000 to lend to beginning farmers to purchase a farm or make improvements to an existing farm. Out of the \$1,393,000, \$919,000 is for beginning farmer down-payment assistance loans. There is operating loan money in the amount of \$424,000.

A definition of what is considered a beginning farmer is some one who has not owned or operated a farm for more than 10 years and who will materially and substantially participate in the operation, and meet the eligibility requirements for direct or guaranteed operating loan and farm ownership loan programs, as applicable.

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