



March 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 **April 7, 2010**.



County Committee

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

County Office Staff

Frank Bouchard, Acting CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Devon Marsden, PT
Leila Naylor, PT

Farm Loan Staff

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



2010 DCP/ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. When you sign the contract, you are agreeing to the following:

- Comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
- Devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use
- Effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices.
- Not plant perennial Fruits and Vegetables or harvest annual fruits or vegetables on base acres
- File an accurate acreage report with respect to all crops and all cropland on the farm, and if enrolled in the ACRE program, report production of covered commodities on the farm
- Notify the office when there is a transfer of, or change of interest of a producer
- A certification of compliance with AGI provisions

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

As Authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008), producers on eligible farms may elect to participate in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program.

The ACRE Program provides producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue and involves state and farm revenue changes from guarantee revenue levels that are based on national prices, state planted yields, and farm planted yields.

Under the ACRE Program, producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

Acreage Reports

As you wait for the snow to melt and the mud to dry, you are probably in the midst of calibrating your planter. Once you complete planting, be sure to file an acreage report with the office. The acreage-reporting deadline is **July 15, 2010** for all crops.

Acreage reports are **required** from any producer who:

- Participates in DCP
- Requests an LDP or a commodity loan
- Participates in the 10-15 year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Participates in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Acreage Reports are recommended for everyone who harvests a crop to maintain their eligibility for current and future programs.

NAP Reminder

Purchasing Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is a great start to protecting your crop investment. Please keep the following in mind when you purchase NAP coverage:

- Report planted crop acres to the office before July 15, 2010.
- File a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) with the office within 15 calendar days after damaging weather occurs or damage to the crop becomes apparent. Failure to report timely will result in loss of benefits.
- Contact the FSA office for an appraisal to be completed prior to destroying the crop or putting the crop to another use.
- Submit your production records by July 15th.

Please remember to keep track of your planting dates and production history.

Farm Loan Programs Available

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs. FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subject 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, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Other FSA Programs Available

Loan Deficiency Payment Program (LDP)

Corn, Wool and mohair producers can apply for a payment subsidy on their 2010 crops. The LDP must be requested by completing form CCC-633 EZ page 1 before the commodity is sold. A producer must have beneficial interest (ownership) in the commodity to be eligible. The current wool LDP rate for the first week of March is \$ 0.29 per lb.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to a natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. Producer must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops in all counties. FSA is accepting applications for 2008 crop losses.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury department.

Additional information about all programs included in this newsletter is available at county FSA offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

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USDA - Farm Service Agency
Rhode Island County Office
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Warwick, RI 02886