

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

County Committee

Ruth James-Chairperson
Vincent Confreda-Vice-Chair
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
Doreen Pezza-Member

County Office Staff

Frank Bouchard, Acting CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Leila Naylor, PT
Ingrid Fratantuono, PT
Stacey O'Brien, PT

Farm Loan Staff

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



July 15, 2010 Acreage Reporting Deadline

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for FSA programs. The Rhode Island Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages those who do not already report their crop acreage to do so to establish a growing history in order to become eligible for current and future programs. Please stop by our office, we look forward to seeing you.



September 1, 2010

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) Deadline Coverage for Value Loss Crops

Producers who have sod, Christmas trees, Ornamental nursery crops and aquaculture are encouraged to sign up for the NAP program. NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have NAP coverage for 2010 may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2011.

The current service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer. To qualify a producer must be a land owner, tenant or share-cropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

August 2, 2010 FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the **August 2, 2010**, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **August 2, 2010**.

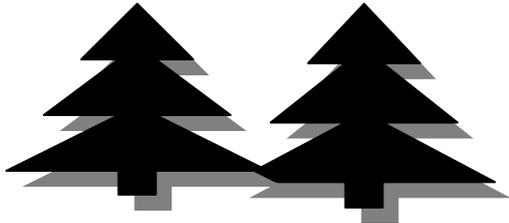
FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning **November 5, 2010**. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 6, 2010.



TAP Signup Continues

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) signup for orchardists and nursery tree growers opened May 10, 2010. The program helps orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Trees grown for pulp or timber are not eligible.



Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member

If you would like the RI Farm Service Agency to e-mail you our future newsletters please contact us at 401-828-3120 or 1-800-551-5144.

Farm Loan Programs Available

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, are unable to obtain needed credit elsewhere and when funding is available at FSA.

Dates to Remember

July 7, 2010—County Committee Meeting .

July 15, 2010—Acreage reporting deadline.

September 1, 2010 – Final day to purchase NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas trees, Ornamental Nursery and Sod.

August 2, 2010-Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office.

November 5, 2010 – Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

USDA - Farm Service Agency
Rhode Island County Office
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

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