

August/September 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
Sarah Arena, SCEP

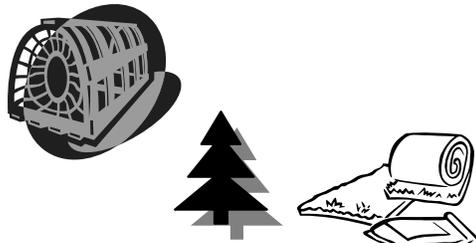


September 1, 2010 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline

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 sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crops.



NAP Application Closing Dates;

September 1, 2010– Value Loss Crops; such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery and turf grass/sod.

November 20, 2010- Perennial Crops

December 1, 2010- Specialty Type Crops; such as Honey and Maple Sap.

March 15, 2011- Annual Crops.

Rhode Island Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges eligible farmers to participate and vote in their local County Committee elections.

The committee election process is designed to give landowners and farmers a better chance of having their opinions and ideas expressed in the community, throughout FSA and throughout the Nation.

In early November, ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters. Eligible voters can also pick up ballots at their local Service Centers.

The following Local Administrative Areas will be conducting County Committee Elections;

LAA-2 Kent County

LAA-4 Newport County

LAA-5 Bristol County



County Committee Election Dates;

November 5, 2010- Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 6, 2010- Last day to return voted Ballots to local FSA Office.

January 1, 2011-Elected committee members and alternates take office.

Farm Loan Programs Available

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Program

A beginning farmer is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all members in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

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. The current interest rate for the beginning farmer down payment program is 1.5%.



Operating Loans

Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Operating Loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance debts under certain conditions. The current rate for operating loans is 2.5%.

RI Farm Service Agency Mail Clean up

The Rhode Island Farm Service Agency County Office would like to clean up our mailing list and distribute our newsletters more efficiently. Please contact the RI County Office at 401-828-3120 option 2 or toll free at 1-800-551-5144 for the following;

- If you are receiving duplicate mailings.
- If you wish to receive our newsletter by e-mail.
- If you do not receive our newsletter and would like to.



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