



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
Jake Felag, Intern

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.



NAP Application Deadlines for 2011 Crops Approaching!

FSA's NAP program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office.

The service fee is **\$250** per crop per county or **\$750** per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of **\$1875** per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. NAP Covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Application Closing Dates are:

November 20, 2010— Forage crops and Perennial crops such as: Hay, Asparagus, Blueberries, Peaches, Raspberries, Strawberries

December 1, 2010-Speciality crops: (honey, maple sap).

March 15, 2011-Annual Crops

Production records for all crops covered by (NAP) are required to establish yield. If you are a current NAP participant or past participant, you must report your production and acreage annually to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and show crop disposition.

It is recommended producers submit 2010 production records soon after harvest. Some examples of acceptable records are: commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, load summaries, pick records, contemporaneous measurements, contemporaneous diaries, and truck scale tickets. Records must be signed and dated and show the disposition of the crop.

County Committee Elections

This year's County Committee election is being held in the following Local Administrative Areas;

LAA-2 Kent County
LAA-4 Newport County
LAA-5 Bristol County



Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2010. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010

Save Money On Your Energy Bills!

The USDA Rural Energy for America Project (REAP) grant can help save you money and energy by providing funds for:

- Renewable Energy Systems (Wind, Solar, Biomass, Geothermal, etc.)
- Energy Efficiency projects (Improvements That Reduce Energy Consumption)

The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living is available to provide free grant-writing and application assistance for farmers in rural Rhode Island areas. Contact Maryellen Snyder at 401-228-7930 or Maryellen@aperion.org to learn more.

2010 Final Payments for DCP!

Producers whose contracts have been approved for payment can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts in October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum.

Conservation Loan Program

A new loan program that makes and guarantees conservation loans to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the United States to conserve our natural resources. Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the “up front” funds available to implement these practices.

The goal of FSA’s Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide farmers access to credit to implement these practices. Unlike FSA’s traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong. Funds can be used to implement any NRCS approved conservation plan. Streamlined applications are also available for those applicants who meet the criteria.



Rates and Terms

Those interested may apply for direct CLs with loan limits up to \$300,000 at local FSA offices. In addition, guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. The direct CL interest rate for September is 4.375% with terms lasting up to 20 years.

Farm Operating Loans

FSA has money to lend for operating purposes, such as equipment purchases, short term capital improvements, annual operating expenses, refinancing of existing operating debt, etc. The September rate is 2.375% fixed. If you think you may need monies to operate, please contact the RI Farm Loan team as soon as possible.



Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA Payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer’s responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

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