



NEWSLETTER



November 2010
Rhode Island County FSA
 60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
 Warwick, RI 02886

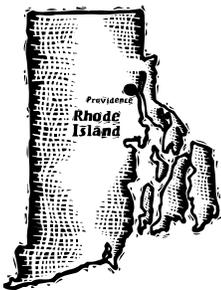
Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 am-4:30 pm

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
 Stacey O'Brien, PT
 Jake Felag, PT

Farm Loan Staff
 Roxanne Boisse, FLM
 Sandy Ford, FLA
 Sarah Arena, SCEP



CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to establish an electronic information exchange process based only on verifying compliance with the Average Adjusted Gross Income Form (AGI) (CCC-926) for program years 2009 and 2010. This Agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain program limits.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted the consent to disclosure of Tax Information form (s)(CCC-927 Individual) (CCC-928 Entity) to IRS.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

These consent forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

2011 DCP and ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The optional ACRE program 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.

Voting for County Committee Members Begin

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are:

LAA-2- Kent County
 Gilbert Rathbun Jr. & Brenda Titus

LAA-4- Newport County
 Victor Hoogendoorn

LAA-5-Bristol County
 Joseph Silveira

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an individual, the authorized representative of an entity, both spouses when property is owned jointly, spouses in community property states.
2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Crop Assistance Program

Signup for the Crop Assistance Program (CAP) began October 25, 2010, and continues through December 9, 2010. Up to \$550 million in disaster assistance will be issued to producers of rice, upland cotton, soybeans and sweet potatoes that suffered losses because of excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009.

Payments will be made available to producers of eligible crops that received Secretarial disaster designations due to excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. A list of eligible disaster counties for CAP is located at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers of eligible crops on farms in disaster counties who certify to a 5 percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on a predetermined payment rate times the planted acres of the crop. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign up is complete they will receive up to an additional 25 percent.

The general eligibility provisions, payment limits and adjusted gross income limits that apply to FSA programs apply to CAP. No person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$100,000 in CAP benefits. For more information contact your local FSA office.



Program (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.

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.

Application Closing Dates

November 20, 2010-Forage crops and Perennial crops
December 1, 2010- Specialty crops: (honey, maple sap)
March 15, 2011-Annual Crops

To those producers currently participating in NAP, please provide the Rhode Island County FSA office with your 2010 production records on all your crops by July 15, 2011.

Non insured Crop Disaster Assistance Trade Adjustment Assistance Act (TAA)

TAA for Farmers provides free training to fisherman who have been adversely affected by import competition. Producers will be able to attend intensive workshops to help them increase profitability, improve production efficiency, consider marketing opportunities, evaluate alternative enterprises, develop a business plan and obtain cash payments.



Rhode Island's eligible commodity is lobsters. The deadline to apply for lobsters is **December 23, 2010**. Applications are available online at: <http://www.taaforfarmers.org> under Producers of Approved Commodities. Click "lobster" and then download Form 229-1.

New Financial Management Web Page

Farm Service Agency would like to announce a new web page to assist customer's with their FSA Financial Needs.

Included in this web page will be:

- How to get access to financial applications
- Walk through instructions on financial applications
- Financial Fact Sheets
- Examples of Disbursement Statements
- Electronic Form link

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your local county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license.

Farm Loan Programs

Now is the time to apply for operating loans if you think you will need them for next season! November's interest rates are 2% for operating loans and 4.125% for Farm Ownership and Conservation 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 new conservation loan program is off to a great start and allows FSA to lend for NRCS projects, there is no test for credit elsewhere like conventional FSA loans, and there is a streamlined option for those who qualify. FSA also has options for farmers looking to buy their own farm.

Money is available now and interest rates are the lowest they have been in a long time, so if you want to secure a loan for spring projects apply sooner rather than later!

Disaster Assistance Programs are Available

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey bees, and Farm-Raised fish (ELAP)

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Loan Deficiency Payments are Available!

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the following crops;



Corn



Wool



Mohair

When it comes to loans, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date you request the loan, and you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan even if you regain beneficial interest.

Requesting LDPs has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ form. Complete **page 1** of the EZ form **before** losing beneficial interest. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The CCC-633 EZ form is available at the Rhode Island FSA County Office or online at; <http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/currentforms.asp>

Current LDP rates can be viewed at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mktpriclean1.xls

For more information please contact the Rhode Island County Office staff.

Final DELAP Payments were made!

The final Phase III payments under the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) program began the week of October 12, 2010. The program is funded by \$290 million, of which \$273 million was distributed during Phase I and Phase II of the program.

Phase I payments were issued in mid-December 2009 to eligible dairy producers with production records from previous participation in dairy programs. Dairy producers who did not have production records at that time were issued payment in Phase II beginning June 18, 2010. For more information contact the Rhode Island FSA County Office.

Dates to Remember!



Nov. 5-County Committee Election Ballots Mailed



Nov. 11-Veterans Day (Office Closed)

Nov. 20-NAP Deadline for Forage and Perennial Crops

Nov. 25-Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)

Dec. 1-NAP Deadline for Specialty Crops

Dec. 1-TAA Meeting at the URI Coastal Institute 6:00 pm to 8:00 PM

Dec. 6-Voters must complete and submit their election ballots to the County FSA office by the close of business day.

Dec. 8-Tabulation of Ballots in the County Office at 10:00 am

Dec. 23-TAA Deadline 

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve (Office Closed)

Dec. 31-New Years Eve (Office Closed)



Attend a Rhode Island Farm Assistance Seminar

Join us for a free informational seminar on FSA Farm Programs & Farm Loan Programs. Energy vendors will also be available onsite. Seminars will be held from 2:00-5:00 pm on;

Nov. 17-Sweet Berry Farm, Middletown

Dec. 2-Richmond Grange

Dec. 8-Laurel Grange, North Scituate

RSVP at least 3 days prior to be sure seating is available to Amy Ding of Rural Development at 401-826-0842 extension 1302 or email: Amy.Ding@RI.USDA.GOV.

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Permit #2

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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