



# NEWSLETTER



**April/May 2011**  
**Rhode Island County FSA**  
60 Quaker Lane Suite 49  
Warwick, RI 02886

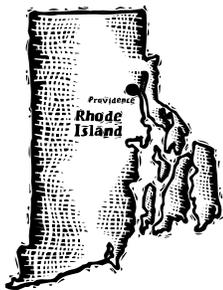
**Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 am-4:30 pm

**Phone**  
401-828-3120 Option 2  
Or 1-800-551-5144  
Farm Loan: Option 3  
Fax: 401-821-0780

**County Committee**  
Ruth James-Chairperson  
Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.-Vice  
Chairperson  
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member  
Joseph Silveira-Member  
Doreen Pezza-Member

**County Office Staff**  
Marilu Soileau, Acting CED  
Anne Belleville, PT  
Leila Naylor, PT  
Stacey O'Brien, PT  
Jake Felag, PT

**Farm Loan Staff**  
Roxanne Boisse, FLM  
Sandy Ford, FLA



## Acreage Reporting Deadline July 15, 2011

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Crop losses must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by July 15, 2011.

## 2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp) to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

## Attention Wool and Mohair Producers!



Wool and Mohair producers are eligible to receive a payment subsidy on their 2011 wool and mohair. The LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) must be requested before the wool/mohair is sold. There is no minimum quantity required.

Please contact the RI County Office for more details.

## SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began **Jan. 10, 2011**. SURE provides benefits for 2008 through 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either: a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county (please note all RI counties qualify for 2009 SURE); or, the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. In order to be eligible for the SURE program **ALL** crops must be covered by insurance or enrolled in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

## Farm Record Changes

Provide changes to your farm records at your local FSA office for the 2011 crop year by June 1, 2011. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

## Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429;

**Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547; **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506.

## County Committee Nominations Open!

Its that time of year again to nominate new County Committee members for Rhode Island FSA. The following Local Administrative Area will be conducting a 2011 County Committee Election;

### LAA-3 Washington County



### County Committee Election Timeline

June	FSA offices begin accepting nominations
August	Final date to return or post-mark nomination forms
November	Ballots are mailed to eligible voters who cast ballots.
December	Ballots are submitted and counted.
January	Committee members and alternates take office

Please visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) to obtain an informational brochure and a nomination form or please contact the RI County FSA Office.

## Join USDA and FSA in celebrating Earth Day 2011

April 22 marks Earth Day 2011. In recognition of the power of millions of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 will be organized around A Billion Acts of Green®: Personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. The Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries and more than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. For more information about Earth Day, visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).



The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the CHST.

An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

## New Dairy Gross Margin (income over feed cost) Insurance



This program is based on milk income over feed costs, which the program calls a "gross margin." The insurance program covers the difference between the expected gross margin (insurance guarantee) and the actual gross margin for the producer's selected months, based on a targeted amount of milk. Futures prices from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) & Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) are used to determine the values of Class III milk, corn and soybean meal. Futures prices result in uniform commodity prices for all producers. There is a maximum producer enrollment limit of 240,000 cwt. of milk per year.

Please contact the RI FSA County Office for more details.

## CRP Signup

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is holding a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from March 14 through April 15, 2011.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. Accepted contracts for sign-up 41 will begin on October 1, 2011.

In addition to CRP sign-up 41, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous sign-up, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## Spousal Signatures

Husband and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

## Farm Loans Available!

Money is available now and interest rates are low, so if you want to secure a loan for spring projects apply now!

### April Rates

Operating Loan -2.75%

Conservation Loan -5.00%

Farm Ownership Loan-5.00%

Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as live-stock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insur-ance and other operating expenses.

The Conservation Loan (CL) program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

FSA also has options for farmers looking to buy their own farm. Contact the Farm Loan department for details.

## Dates to Remember!

**April 22, 2011-** Earth Day

**May 4, 2011-**County Committee Meeting

**May 12, 2011-**Ag Day at the Capitol.

**May 30, 2011-**Memorial Day (Office Closed)

**June 1, 2011-**Last Day to Sign up for DCP.

**July 4, 2011-**Independence Day (Office Closed)

**July 15, 2011-**Acreage Reporting Deadline

**September 1, 2011-**Last Day to purchase NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Ornamental Nursery and Sod.



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Rhode Island County Office  
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Warwick, RI 02886