



NEWSLETTER



June/July 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

Crop Reporting Deadline July 15, 2011

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Crop Losses:

Reports of crop losses must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop was lost and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Please stop by the County Office to file your Crop Report!

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp, 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 advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

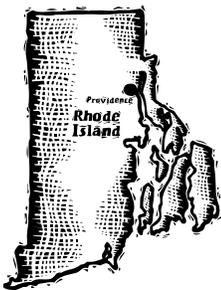
For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and you did not notify the FSA county office, your payment could/will be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems.



Please notify FSA of any bank account changes.



FILE HERE!



**60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick RI 02886**

2011 FSA County Committee Elections

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

LAA-3 Washington County



County Committee Election Timeline

June 15, 2011	FSA offices begin accepting nominations
August 1, 2011	Final date to return or post-mark nomination forms
November 4, 2011	Ballots are mailed to eligible voters who cast ballots.
December 5, 2011	Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office.
January 2, 2012	Committee members and alternates take office

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Farm Service Agency offices and online at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be post-marked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

A person who meets the requirements in No. 1 or No. 2 below, as well as No. 3, **is eligible to vote**.

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm as either: An individual or the authorized representative of an entity.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) program that is provided for by law.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

Emergency Assistance Available!

More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).



ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also under way. Producers with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application no later than Jan. 30, 2012. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or Oct. 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

Programs and Payment Limits

Program Payment Type	Limitation (in Dollars)
<i>Commodity Programs</i> Counter Cyclical Payment Direct Payments	\$65,000 <u>1/</u> \$40,000 <u>2/</u>
<i>Conservation Programs</i> CRP, GRP, WHIP, WRP	\$50,000
<i>Disaster Assistance Programs</i> ELAP, LFP, LIP, SURE, NAP, TAP	\$100,000
<i>Price Support Programs</i> LDP, MAL, and MLG	No Limits
<i>Other Programs</i> TAAF	\$10,000 <u>3/</u> —*

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that the direct payments were reduced.

2/ If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each farm that is participating in ACRE.

***--3/** TAAF payments and counter-cyclical payments received by a person or legal entity for the same program or FY are limited to combined total of \$65,000 if counter-cyclical payments are received for covered commodities or peanuts; or a total of \$130,000 if counter-cyclical payments are received for both covered commodities and peanuts.--*

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you should provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date or July 15th.**

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report crop losses and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses for hay or turf. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the RI Farm Loan Team.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be 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.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 non-farm 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 15th** to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.



Dates to Remember!

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

June 5, 2011-Rhody Wool Collection, Urban Edge Farm

June 15, 2011-FSA offices begin accepting nomination forms.

July 4, 2011-Independence Day (Office Closed)

July 15, 2011-Acreage Reporting Deadline

August 1, 2011-Final date to return or postmark nomination forms

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

September 5, 2011-Labor Day (Office Closed)



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 Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Mailed from Zip Code 02893

Permit #2

US Postage Paid

PRSR STD

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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