



NEWSLETTER



September/October 2011
Rhode Island County FSA
 60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
 Warwick, RI 02886

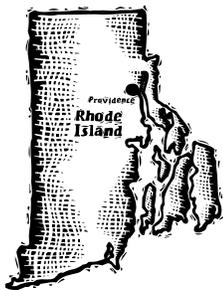
Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 am-4:30 pm

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
 Ingrid Fratantuono, CED
 Anne Belleville, PT
 Leila Naylor, PT

Farm Loan Staff
 Roxanne Boisse, FLM
 Sandy Ford, FLA



2011 Final Payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)!

Producers whose contracts have been approved for payment can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into their bank accounts in October. **If your bank account information has changed please contact the RI County FSA Office.**

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

2011 Acreage Reports

The RI County FSA office would like to thank everyone who filed their acreage report this year. Filing a yearly acreage report will not only help you as a producer if in the event you suffer a crop loss, it also records the types of agriculture RI has to offer. With this information FSA will be better able to create new programs to assist producers in their current and future farming activities. Thanks RI Producers!

New RI FSA County Executive Director!

RI FSA would like to welcome Ingrid Fratantuono into her new position as a County Executive Director. Ingrid has several years of farming experience here in RI. Over the past year she has traveled to several different states learning and building a strong support group. She is very dedicated in her work and looks forward to working with all of you in the near future. Congratulations!

County Committee Elections!

LAA-3 Washington County



A County Committee plays an essential role when it comes to assisting RI FSA with the implementation of programs. Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the RI FSA county office by the close of business day on December 5, 2011.

The nominees in this years election are;

1. Perry Raso from Matunuck Oysters
2. Lauri Roberts from Farming Turtles

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are 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 Insurance is available for 2012 !

RI FSA would like to remind producers of our Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program that is available to those who grow crops that are uninsurable.

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, 2011-Forage Crops and Perennial Crops.

December 1, 2011-Specialty Crops : (Honey, maple sap)

March 15, 2012-Annual Crops

Please contact the RI FSA County Office for more information.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Program for Farmers (TAA)



Eligible lobster producers in RI are working hard taking the required intensive training courses to create their new business plans. Please continue to monitor the TAA for Farmers website for the latest program information at <http://www.taafarmers.org/>

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Producers Must Report AGI to IRS

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.

For more information, please contact RI FSA at 401-828-3120 option 2 or toll free 1-800-551-5144.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include, planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA 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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

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.

FSA farm loan team will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it.

For more information visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ri&area=home&subject=prog&topic=landing>

Contact RI Farm Loan Team at 401-828-3120 option 3.

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 has been 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 or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation,

please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action

Settlement please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Sending Newsletters Electronically!



RI FSA would like to eventually send our periodic newsletters to you by e-mail only. The estimated annual cost of distributing 4 to 6 newsletters annually to the 1.4 million producers who participate in FSA's programs is \$2.1 million to \$3.15 million for printing and mailing. The annual fee to host all of FSA's electronic newsletters is less than \$100,000.

To receive your newsletter electronically, please contact the RI County Office.

RI FSA has a Website!

RI FSA works hard to provide you with the most up to date information regarding our current programs. On our website we post our current newsletters, staff contact information and we also like to post current agricultural events. We need your help, if you know of an agricultural event let us know and we would be happy to post the event on our website. Please note, we update the events page once monthly. Please inform us of the event in advance thanks.

Please, take the time to explore our website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ri&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, shrub land, and certain other lands. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion.

Eligible land includes privately owned or Tribal grasslands; land that contains forbs (including improved rangeland and pastureland or shrub land) for which grazing is the predominant use; or land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrub land that has the potential to serve as wildlife habitat of significant ecological value.

More Information

For more information and updates about the Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill, or the NRCS Web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/; for more information on GRP, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp.

Dates to Remember!

September 5, 2011-Labor Day (Office Closed)

October 10, 2011-Columbus Day (Office Closed)

November 4, 2011-Ballots are mailed to eligible voters who cast ballots.

November 20, 2011-NAP sign up deadline for Forage and Perennial crops.

November 24, 2011-Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

December 1, 2011-NAP sign up deadline for Specialty crops: (Honey, Maple Sap)

December 5, 2011-Last day to return voted ballots or post-marked.

January 2, 2012- New Committee members and alternates take office.



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.

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Rhode Island County Office
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