



NEWSLETTER



November/December 2011
Rhode Island County FSA
 60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
 Warwick, RI 02886

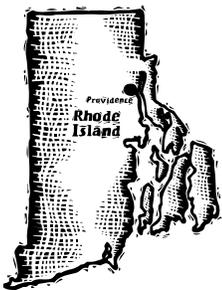
Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 am-4:30 pm

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
 Andrew Neil, PT

Farm Loan Staff
 Roxanne Boisse, FLM
 Sandy Ford, FLA



Farm Loans Available!

Rhode Island FSA FLP did an outstanding job of lending money to Rhode Island farmers this year. In 2010, 31 direct loans were made and a total of \$1,202,000 was obligated. In 2011, 26 direct loans were made and a total of \$1,775,520 was obligated. We beat our last year's direct lending by \$573,200!

We had the Conservation Loan program in 2011 that helped us to lend to farmers that otherwise would not qualify for our direct loan program. The program was a success here in Rhode Island but unfortunately, this program will not be funded for 2012.

If farmers need financing for operating purposes or real estate improvements for 2012 please submit applications early! Funding is anticipated to be at the same levels as last fiscal year.

October Rates

Operating loan-1.75%
 Real Estate-4.25%
 Farm Ownership loan-4.25%

We have the Beginning Farmer down payment assistance program, specifically for beginning farmers. Farmers who are unable to obtain bank financing and who have operated a farm for at least 3 years and now want to own their own farm. A down payment of 5% of the total purchase price in cash is required. The maximum loan amount for this program is \$225,000.

If a farmer needed additional monies, FSA could lend the balance of the funds via its direct Farm Ownership loan program. Please contact the county office for more information.

2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sign Up Deadline to insure Perennial and Forage Crops November 20, 2011!

November 20th is the sign up deadline for producers to insure their **non insurable Perennial and Forage crops**. The application 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.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign up Begins!

If producers had a crop loss greater than 10% in 2010, they may be eligible for SURE. SURE requires that the producer has insured **all** of their crops on their farm by purchasing crop insurance for corn, apples and other **insurable crops** and/or also have obtained NAP insurance for **non insurable crops** in 2010.

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for 2010 crop losses will begin **November 14, 2011**, and end June 1, 2012.

2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Sign up will begin on January 23, 2012!

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical program (DCP) will begin on January 23, 2012 and continue through June 1st 2012. USDA computes DCP program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payment rates established by statute regardless of market process.

Pesticide Training!

The RI FSA is holding pesticide training worth 2 credits on December 8th from 10:00am to 2:30pm. The training will cover **Weed Control** and **Greenhouse Pesticides**. With the bad year we have had with Hurricane Irene and wet weather we would like to inform you of what programs are available for your farm. Some programs have changed for the better. A RMA insurance representative will also be present with information and will answer questions you may have. There is no fee and lunch will be included. RI FSA staff will be providing program materials. A detailed training on the NAP program will be provided, and the County Office Staff will be available to answer your questions.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

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

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Dates to Remember!

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

November 18, 2011-Pesticide Training, 2 Credits 9:00 am -12:00 pm at Pezza Farm. Register with Peggy Siligato URI 401-874-5997, email: siligato@uri.edu

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

November 24, 2011-Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

November 29, 2011-Pesticide Training 2 Credits, 2 sessions 8:30 am-11:30 am and 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Barden Family Orchard. Register with Peggy Siligato URI 401-874-5997, email: siligato@uri.edu

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.

December 8, 2011-Pesticide Training 2 Credits 10:00 am - 2:30 pm at the USDA Service Center, Warwick RI. Register with the RI County Office at 401-828-3120 option 2.

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