



# NEWSLETTER



**January/February 2012**  
**Rhode Island County FSA**  
 60 Quaker Lane Suite 49  
 Warwick, RI 02886

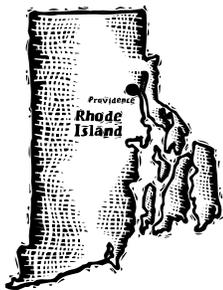
**Hours**  
 Monday-Friday  
 8:00 am-4:30 pm

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

**County Committee**  
 Lauri Roberts  
 Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.  
 Victor Hoogendoorn  
 Joseph Silveira  
 Doreen Pezza

**County Office Staff**  
 Ingrid Fratantuono, CED  
 Anne Belleville, PT  
 Leila Naylor, PT  
 Andrew Neil, PT

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



## County Committee Elections

Thanks to all who participated in 2012 County Committee elections. RI FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. County Committee meetings are held monthly. County Committee members are a critical component for day to day operations of FSA and help deliver programs at the local level.

Congratulations to the newly-elected members and alternates who will take office on January 1, 2012. The new committee members will hold their organizational meeting on **January 11, 2012** to determine who will serve as the County Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Results from the Election held on **December 7, 2011** are as follows;

**LAA-3-Washington County**  
 Lauri Roberts-Member  
 Perry Raso-Alternate

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup will begin on January 23, 2012!

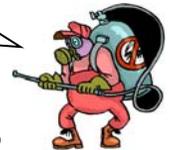
2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Contact the Rhode Island County FSA Office for more details!

## 2012 NAP Signup deadline for Annual Crops March 15, 2012!

March 15th is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage and to pay the service fee at the county office.

## Pesticide Training!

**Worth 2 Credits!**  
**January 18th!**



Rhode Island Farm Service Agency is having a pesticide training worth two credits on:

**January 18, 2012**  
**10:00 am to 2:30 pm**  
**At 60 Quaker Lane**  
**Warwick, RI 02886**

The training will cover weed control in your Greenhouses and in your fields. We have an excellent speaker who is very knowledgeable on this subject so bring in your questions regarding your weed control issues! FSA will also have two break-out sessions, one on RMA insurance and one on NAP insurance.

**Lunch will be Provided!**



With the bad year we have had with Tropical Storm Irene and Lee, heavy snow and wet weather we would also like to better inform you about the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). An RMA insurance representative will be present to discuss crops that are insurable and answer some of your questions.

**Call to save a seat**  
**since seating is limited!**  
**RSVP!**



**Rhode Island County**  
**Farm Service Agency**  
**401-828-3120 option 2.**

## Farm Loans Available!

FSA Farm Loan Program is anticipating the same funding as fiscal year 2011. There is money available to lend in both the direct loan programs and guaranteed loan programs. There is Operating loan money available for annual operating expenses and capital expenses, such as equipment purchase or making capital improvements.

### December Rates

Operating loan-1.5 %  
*terms are 1 up to 7 years*

Farm Ownership-3.375%  
*terms anywhere from 20 – 40 years*

Down payment Assistance-1.5%  
*term for this loan is 20 years. 5% of the purchase price, in cash is required for this program. Loan Limit for DP assistance is \$225,000.00*

**\*Please Note: There is no funding for the Conservation Loan Program this year.**

For more information, please contact the Farm Loan Team at 401-828-3120 Option 3.

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## 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:**  
[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**  
[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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