



NEWSLETTER



March/April 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
 Doreen Pezza-Chairperson
 Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.-Vice
 Chairperson
 Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
 Joseph Silveira-Member
 Lauri Roberts-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



2012 DCP/ACRE Signup began on January 23, 2012!

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 1. Ownership changes
 2. Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 3. Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

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.

The service fee is **\$250** per crop per county or **\$750** per producer per county. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Contact the Rhode Island County Office for more information.

Don't forget to file your yearly Acreage Report!

Just a reminder to contact the Rhode Island County office once you have completed your planting. **The deadline to initially file your acreage report is July 15th**, but if you continue to plant after that date please let us know so we can adjust your acreage report accordingly.

Filing a yearly acreage report is required in order to participate in FSA programs and are highly recommended for everyone who harvests a crop to maintain their eligibility for current and future programs.



FSA's GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

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.

February Rates

Operating loan-1.375%
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.

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 or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Join USDA for a Renewable Energy Info Session!

Wednesday February 22, 2012 from 10:00 am to noon. For more information contact USDA Rural Development at 508-295-5151 ext 3 or by e-mail ann.correia@ma.usda.gov.

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