



NEWSLETTER



November 2013
Rhode Island County
Office
 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, KPT
 Sheryl Michener, PT

Farm Loan Staff
 Roxanne Boisse, FLM
 Sandra Steere-Loring, FLA

Next County Committee Meeting:
 December 4, 2013 at 10:00 am

Rhode Island County FSA Updates

The Rhode Island County Office staff has issued DCP payments to producers for 2013 along with CRP and GRP payments. We are also preparing for this years upcoming County Committee Elections.

2014 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sign Up Deadline to insure Perennial and Forage Crops is November 20th!

November 20th is sign up deadline for producers to insure their Perennial and Forage crops. The application fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 2, 2013. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 2, 2013.

The candidates in this year's election are:

LAA 2, Kent County-Gilbert Rathbun Jr.

LAA 4, Newport County-Victor Hoogendoorn

LAA 5, Bristol County- Joseph Silveira

Eligible voters in the eligible a local administrative areas who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) November 1 Deadline

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds producers that final production evidence and any supporting documentation for the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program for eligible months (including fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013) that MILC payments were available must be submitted by Nov. 1, 2013.

Statutory authority for the MILC program expired Sept. 30, 2013. New legislation must be enacted before the MILC program, or its replacement, can provide assistance.

Dairy operations can obtain more information on MILC by contacting a local FSA office or search "MILC" at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.