

Farm Service Agency

June 2008

Rhode Island County FSA

Acreage Reporting

All participating producers must file a crop report to be eligible for program benefits. This includes payments under **DCP, NAP, CRP, LDP's and Disaster programs**. **The deadline to report acreage for Rhode Island is July 15, 2008.** Reports filed after that will be assessed a late filed fee. Producers are encouraged to file crop reports at the county office.

For your convenience we will have satellite locations in the following places:

- ◆ **Tuesday, June 24th, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM.**
Schartner's Bald Hill Nurseries 90 Ten Rod Road North Kingston, RI
- ◆ **Wednesday, June 25th, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM.**
Sweet Berry Farm 519 Mitchell's Lane Middletown, RI
- ◆ **Thursday, June 26th, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM.**
Young Family Farm 242 West Main Rd Little Compton, RI
- ◆ **Tuesday, July 8th, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM.**
Confreda Farms & Produce 2150 Scituate Ave Hope, RI
- ◆ **Wednesday, July 9th, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM**
Frerichs Farm 43 Kinnicut Ave Warren, RI
- ◆ **Thursday, July 10th, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**
Schartner's Bald Hill Nurseries 90 Ten Rod Road North Kingston, RI

Crop Disaster Program

County Executive Director, Melissa Turrisi and Program Technician, Devon Marsden have just completed their second Crop Disaster training applicable to the U.S. Troops Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007. This portion of the training covered quality loss and quality loss payment processing. The training was held May 20th - May 23rd in Kissimmee, Florida. Software applying to quality loss will be provided to the County Office on or about June 20th

Ms. Turrisi and Ms. Marsden also attended CDP quantity training last September in Houston, Texas.

For more information on the program or questions regarding eligibility, please contact the County Office.



COC MEMBERS

Ruth James

Chairperson

Vincent Confreda

Vice Chair

Victor Hoogendoorn

Member

George Goulart

Member

James Steere

Member

**COC MEETS THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH
MONTH**

Dates to Remember

July 4th

Office closed

July 15th

Acreage Report Deadline

USDA - Farm Service
Agency
60 Quaker Lane, suite 49
Warwick, 02886

Phone: 401-828-3120 option 2
Farm Loan : Option 9
Fax: 401-821-0780

RHODY WARM ANNOUNCES 3RD ANNUAL WOOL COLLECTION DAY

WARM NEVER FELT SO GOOD! The RI Sheep Cooperative invites Rhode Island's sheep and wool producers to bring their quality fleeces to the 3rd *Annual Rhody Warm* wool collection day.

- Fleeces must be 2 - 6 inches long, clean, dry, and shorn in the last year
- Sorry, no hair sheep materials will be accepted
- The farmer will receive \$0.55 per pound for their skirted fleece
- Membership in the RI Sheep Cooperative is required and will be available for \$10.00
- Did you know that 6 lbs. of wool can make a blanket?
- If you cannot make this date, **do not throw your wool away!** Contact us for tips on wool storage.

The Rhody Warm blanket is the proud recipient of Rhode Island Monthly Magazine's 2007 Editors' Best of Rhode Island Award for Best Blanket.

The decline of the textile industry in New England combined with low wool prices have turned much of the wool that Rhode Island's sheep farmers produce into a nuisance rather than a product. The Rhody Warm project was introduced in 2006 as a way for these farmers to create wool blankets that are warm, beautiful, natural, and made from a renewable farm product. Wool blanket sales by local farms help to fund their sheep operations. In the last two years, over 3400 pounds of raw wool was processed into 900 beautiful blankets. According to RIRC&D President Harriet Powell, "The Rhody Warm has been an overwhelming success. We see this as an opportunity to create a beautiful blanket to bring more income to farmers and serve to promote the sustainability of local agriculture." The project is funded, part with the help of a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, and organized by the Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area (RI RC&D), the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, and the RIDEM – Division of Agriculture.

Where ? DATE: Saturday, June 7, 2008

When ? LOCATION: Urban Edge Farm

35 Pippin Orchard Road Cranston, RI

TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

For more information contact Chris Modisette USDA-NRCS RC&D Coordinator 401-822-8877

or contact Barbara Thompson at 401-949-0264 or mthompson5@cox.net



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County Committee Elections

It's county committee election time, and this special issue of the Rhode Island County office newsletter is your guide to the 2008 election. Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a 1 to 3 year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in a LAA to replace the committee member whose term is expiring.

Nominations Open June 15

LAA's with Elections

LAA #3 - Washington County

LAA #5 - Bristol County, Tiverton, and Little Compton

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A nomination form, FSA-669A (also available in Spanish) is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1.

Election

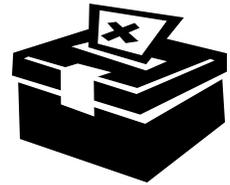
The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Dec. 1, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.



The LAA Boundary map is located on the back side of this page.

Election Dates:

- **June 15th** -
Nomination period begins
- **August 1st** -
Last day to nominate
- **November 2nd** -
Ballots mailed
- **December 3rd** -
Last day to return ballots
- **January 1st** -
Elected members take office



County Office Staff

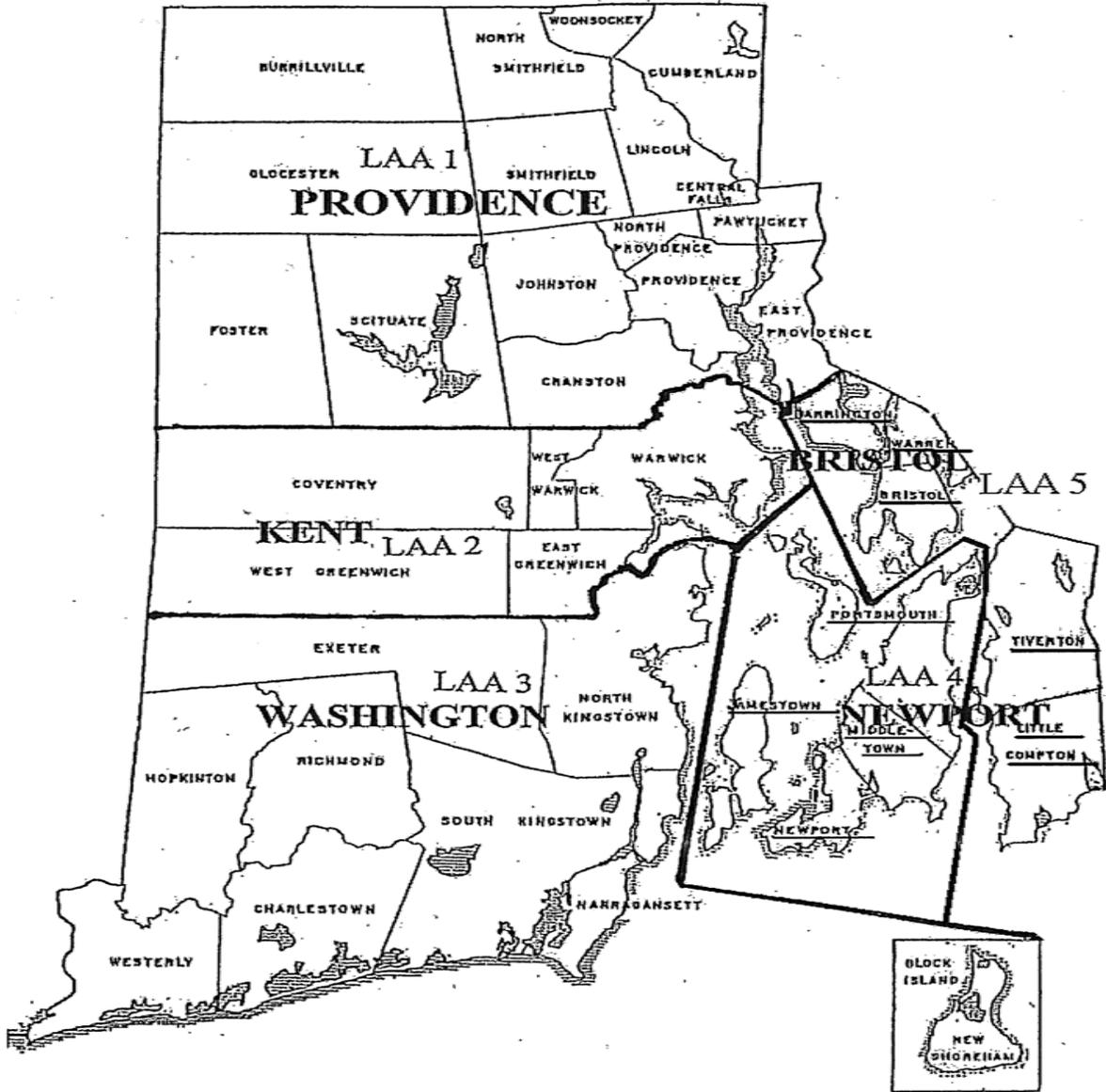
Melissa Turrisi - CED
Anne Belleville - PT
Devon Marsden - PT
Leila Naylor-PT
Roxanne Boisse - FLM
Joe Marcoccia - FLO
Sandy Ford - PT



We are on the web
WWW.FSA.USDA.GOV



Rhode Island FSA County Committee LAA Structure



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



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