

FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2006

RHODE ISLAND COUNTY FSA OFFICE

*If you would like to receive our county office newsletter electronically please email us at
devon.edmiston@ri.usda.gov*

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 20

Office Closed

OCTOBER 1

2007 Fiscal year begins

OCTOBER 1

Sign up 2007 DCP contract

OCTOBER 4

COC meeting

OCTOBER 9

Office Closed

It is the responsibility of the producer to fully comply with all eligibility requirements to receive a FSA program payment. Check with this office to make sure all the required paperwork is on file.

It is the responsibility of the producer to keep abreast of program requirements and deadlines for those programs they have an interest.

It is the responsibility of the producer to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Report changes as soon as possible after they occur. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA can lead to possible program ineligibility.

NAP DEADLINE

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

November 20 is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage on **Perennial Crops**. The crops included are: **asparagus, blueberries, peaches, pears, raspberries, strawberries, and all other perennial crops.**

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; 2) timely file acreage reports; and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

LDPs and Loans

Loans or LDPs (Loan Deficiency Payments) are available for producers who share in the risk of producing crops. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest (maintain title, control of the crop) in the crop through the time of application. Producers who have contracted the commodity, sold directly off the field, or immediately fed the commodity should have filed a CCC-633EZ page 1 to maintain eligibility for an LDP. The CCC-633EZ page 1 needs to be signed prior to harvest. Producers who deliver grain under a delayed pricing contract lose beneficial interest upon delivery in most cases.

Electronic Loan Deficiency Payments (eLDP) are available to producers who have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. The eLDP is an internet based service allowing producers to request certified LDPs on line and, in most cases receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

ELDP services provide greater flexibility to producers allowing them to minimize travel to and from county FSA offices. ELDPs are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except during routine backup and maintenance periods.

Commodities harvested for other than grain (such as hay or silage) are also eligible for LDPs. Applications should be made prior to feeding or selling. The maximum eligible quantity is based on actual production of grain for the farm. Producers that want to ensure the use of their own yield should request measurement service for farm stored commodities prior to feeding. If actual production is not available, the county committee will assign a yield based on three similar farms in your area. Yield for crops that sustained weather damage will be based on the insurance appraisal.

Interest rates vary monthly and are based on the month of approval. Rates are subject to change January 1.

Loan repayment options, include:

- repay the loan, principal plus interest
- repay the loan at the market repayment rate
- deliver the outstanding quantity to a designated warehouse

When commodities are under loan and used as collateral, they may not be moved without prior written consent from the county office. **CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL!**

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We're on the Web!
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/RI/>

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COC Elections

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2006. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 3, 2006. Voters have until December 4, 2006, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2007.

Prospective Voter Requirements - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as item number 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

DCP

2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October. Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

This commodity based program is not a continuous program. Contracts for DCP (Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program) must be updated each year. Sign up has begun for 2007, come in and sign up today! Once a signed contract and current eligibility information is file, the producer can request an advance payment (50% of direct payment) after selecting a month.

Update your farm records. Changes made to your farming operation and acreage totals can affect your payments and compliance with other FSA programs. Please submit cash rent or crop share leases at the time of sign up

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