



New Hampshire Farm Service Agency News



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New Hampshire State Committee Members

The State Committee oversees the activities of the Farm Service Agency. Their duties include carrying out the state agricultural conservation, disaster, and price support programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs.



(From left to right: Bruce Clement, James Taylor, and Joshua Jennings)

The individuals appointed to serve on the committee include:

Bruce Clement

Clement owns a grass based farm with his wife Ellen in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, where they produce lamb and wool products. In addition

to farming, Clement serves as the Director of the Northeast Association of County Extension Agents and as a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

James Taylor (Chairperson)

Taylor—along with brothers Rob and Bill, and his parents—runs an 80 cow dairy farm and 5,200 tap maple sugaring operation called Taylor Farm in Meriden, New Hampshire. He also works as the Director of Community Development in the town of Enfield.

Josh Jennings

Jennings manages nine acres of organic horticultural crops on his farm, Meadow's Mirth Farm. Jennings also sits on the Board of Directors of the Seacoast Growers' Association.

Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families Program

This summer, the USDA is sponsoring the "Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families" food collection drive. Announced by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, this annual event is designed to help re-stock the shelves of local food pantries that see a rise in demand for food in the summer months coupled with a decrease in donations. Secretary Vilsack reminds us that, "When school lets out for the summer, our nation's youngsters who receive free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are at a higher risk of going hungry. The good news, however, is that while the needs of our hungry neighbors are especially great in the summer months, our opportunity to make a difference in their lives is also great."



According to the NH Food Bank, there are 140 charitable food pantries in New Hampshire and seventy-two percent of them have reported an increase in the number of clients who visit their emergency food programs. Each of the New Hampshire USDA County

Service Centers as well as the NH FSA State Office has a collection box for non-perishable food items that will be delivered directly to New Hampshire food pantries. Our local food pantries are requesting: canned proteins, canned fruits, fruit juices, pasta, rice, canned vegetables, soups, and cereals. The "Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families" food collection drive runs from June 23 through August 31. Please help make a difference by contributing to the food drive in your area.

Inside this Issue:

New to FSA & Retirements	2
USDA's 'People's Gardens' Program	3
Important FSA Dates and Events	3
Agriculture and Natural Resources Business Institute	4

New to FSA



Donna Juneau began working with the Farm Service Agency in March 2010 as a County Office Trainee (COT). Prior to joining FSA, Donna worked for eighteen years as an environmental consultant conducting field investigations throughout New England and assisting clients with their environmental regulatory compliance needs. Donna enjoyed working with people and guiding them through the regulatory process.

The objective of the COT Program is to teach trainees how to effectively conduct County Committee and County Office activities. Donna has spent the last few months training with the County Executive Directors (CEDs) in the Cheshire-Sullivan, Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough, and Grafton County Offices. She has received training on the administration of a variety of FSA programs including Disaster Assistance Programs, Conservation Programs, Price Support Programs, and Farm Loan Programs. She has also had the opportunity to attend a number of County Committee meetings and visit farming operations throughout the State.

Donna is a native of New Hampshire and currently resides in Goffstown with her husband and two sons. She is grateful for the warm welcome FSA staff and program participants have extended to her over the last few months. She looks forward to continuing her training and for the opportunity to serve New Hampshire farmers.

John Dudley was chosen as the FSA student summer intern and began his duty in late May. He is studying international affairs and history at the University of New Hampshire and will be entering his senior year this fall. So far John has contributed to outreach efforts, helped with acreage reports, and taken on various other projects in his time with us.



Retirements

Kathleen Dole started her career with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) as a County Executive Director Trainee on March 23, 1980. She came to ASCS from the Cooperative Extension Service in Durham where she had worked as the Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor of Forestry Programs. On November 16th, 1980, Kathy was hired as the County Executive Director (CED) in Strafford County, which was later combined with Rockingham County. Responding to an opening in the Merrimack County ASCS Office, Kathy applied for, and was hired as the CED in Merrimack County on January 1, 1989 where she remained until her retirement on July 2, 2010.

With 30 years of service, Kathy decided to retire to spend more time with her husband, Sumner, and their three daughters Rebecca, Kathleen, and Molly. We thank Kathy for her hard work and service to New Hampshire farmers.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Gleneck began her career with FSA 9 ½ years ago in the Hillsborough County Service Center located, at that time, in Milford, NH. In 2006 Betsy became the Program Technician for Cheshire and Sullivan Counties in the Walpole Service Center, traveling every day from her home in Wilton.

After much thought, Betsy decided that it was time to close a chapter in her career life and retired on April 30. She is very excited to be able to spend more time with her husband, Paul, her 5 children, and 3 grandchildren, and to pursue some new ventures that she has always wanted to do.

Betsy's great smile, happy-go-lucky personality and work ethic will be greatly missed. From all of us here at FSA, "Best of luck in your retirement Betsy!"

FSA: Building People's Gardens



New Hampshire FSA Supports Challenge to Build 'People's Gardens' at every USDA Facility *The Coos-Carroll Service Center's 'People's Garden'*

The 'People's Garden' at the Coos-Carroll USDA Service Center in Lancaster, NH is one of over 400 People's Gardens across the country. Last year, the USDA unveiled the People's Garden in Washington, D.C. as a living exhibit of what USDA does every day. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack challenged all employees to create a People's Garden at their USDA office or in their local communities. USDA is part-

nering with hundreds of organizations at the local level. With only 124 People's Gardens last year, USDA donated over 34,000 pounds of produce to local charities. Today, a People's Garden exists in all 50 states, two U.S. territories, and three foreign countries.

Each People's Garden can vary in size and type, but all have a common purpose – to help the community they are in and to help the environment. USDA agencies are involved in building these gardens, many of which are maintained through the collaboration of multiple agencies with their communities.

The Coos-Carroll Service Center People's Garden project, overseen by Mary Ellen Cannon of NRCS, was created by NRCS and FSA personnel in collaboration with the Charter School students and their teacher. Last year's garden produced carrots, winter squash, and onions which were donated to the local food pantry. Sunflowers, squash, onions and carrots have been planted for this year's endeavor.

People's Gardens around the country demonstrate the connections we make between providing nutritious food, protecting the landscape where that food is grown, and serving our communities. These gardens provide educational opportunities for children and adults about nutrition and sustainability as well as introduce younger generations to agriculture and fresh foods.

More information about 'The People's Garden' initiative can be found at www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden. The location of the Lancaster Garden and other 'People's Gardens' can be viewed on-line at www.pubinfo.usda.gov/garden via a public map. Click on the map makers to view information about each garden.

Important Dates and Events

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup — August 2 — 27, 2010. CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. *For more information, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or visit your local FSA Office.*

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) — The Deadline for applications for the 2008 SURE program is September 30th. The program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. *For more information, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/sure or visit your local FSA Office.*

The New Hampshire fair season is upon us, and the Farm Service Agency's County Office members will take part in the festivities. To promote knowledge of our programs and services, **FSA fair booths will be set up at the following fairs:**

North Haverhill Fair:	July 28 to August 1
Cheshire County Fair:	August 4 to August 8
Lancaster Fair:	September 1 to September 6
Hopkinton State Fair:	September 2 to September 6
Deerfield Fair:	October 9 to October 11

For a complete list of all New Hampshire fairs, please visit <http://www.newhampshire.com/about-nh/nh-state-fairs.aspx>

Agriculture and Natural Resource Business Institute

New Hampshire Farm Service Agency's (NH FSA) State Executive Director Jay Phinizy is pleased to announce our partnership with University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension for an upcoming course. New Hampshire Farm Service Agency is a major sponsor and partner with UNH Cooperative Extension in the Agriculture and Natural Resource Business Institute (ANRBI) course that will be held at the Alvirne High School, Vocational-Technical Center in Hudson, NH this fall.

The 13-week course, beginning in September 2010, is designed for those individuals interested in business opportunities in agriculture and natural resources. "For the last three years NH FSA has been a major supporter of this annual course," says FSA State Executive Director Jay Phinizy. "We are pleased to announce our continued commitment to this year's program."

The course provides individuals and families who want to start or expand an agricultural or natural resource-based business with the essential information and preparation they need to be successful. Extension staff team up with outside experts including NH FSA personnel to assist ANRBI participants in developing an operating plan for a farming or forestry-based business. Class topics include biological systems, soils, natural resource inventories, product and service marketing, enterprise profitability, as well as legal matters relevant to agricultural and natural resource businesses.

The course is scheduled for **Wednesday evenings- September 8 through December 8, 2010, from 6:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$175.** The class is being held at the Alvirne High School, Vocational-Technical Center, 200 Derry Road, Hudson, NH 03051.

For more information or to register call UNH Cooperative Extension: **George Hamilton at 603-641-6060 or Michael Sciabarrasi at 603-862-3232.** On-line registration can be found at: https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=7389



*And it is summer, glorious,
deep-toned summer,
The very crown of nature's
changing year
When all her surging life is
at its full.*

-Amy Lowell (1912)

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