



# Farm Service Agency New London County January—February

USDA  
New London County  
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Norwich, CT 06360

Phone  
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Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM—4:30 PM

## County Committee:

John Gadbois

Raymond Manning

Arthur Spielman III

Suzanne Sankow  
Minority Advisor

County Office Staff  
Ann Marie McCard,  
CED

Patricia Smith, PT  
Barbara Pagano, PT

Ronald Clark,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Devon Marsden, FLOT

## New CED

Ann Marie McCard was hired as the New London County Executive Director on July 6, 2010. Previous to being hired as CED, Ann Marie completed an eight month County Operations Trainee program. She trained with experienced FSA staff in both county and state offices in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York. Prior to becoming the COT, her previous experience was as a Program Technician for many years in the New Haven/Middlesex County Office in Wallingford, CT.

## County Committee

### Election Results

Congratulations to Ray Manning! Ray was re-elected to represent farmers from Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon on the county committee. Ray was elected to his second consecutive term. The election results for Local Administra-

tive Area # 1 are:

Raymond Manning—Elected to the county committee (COC).

Kimberly Abell— 1st alternate to COC.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

## DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

Advance payments of 22% on

the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.



## SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan 10, 2011 and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008-2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either :

- a portion of the farm is located in a county cov-

ered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous-

- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production



## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and

others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regula-

tions or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Ronald Clark at: 860-887-9941x105.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Programs and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.



## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops, and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the application

closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production report in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of the loss.*

### Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. Failure to

maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.



## Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clear-

ing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices—an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.



## Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for direct CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are:

water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

### Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency

makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Farm Services Agency

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

January 17, 2011	Martin Luther King Day—OFFICE CLOSED
February 12, 2011	Lincoln's Birthday
February 14, 2011	Valentine's Day
February 21, 2011	Presidents Day—OFFICE CLOSED

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