



# NEWSLETTER



## Windham County FSA Office

Quarterly Newsletter  
June / July / August  
2011

139 Wolf Den Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234-1729

860-774-8397 x 1  
860-779-0148 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/CT

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Windham Staff

Dawn S. Pindell  
County Executive Director, x 109  
Dawn.Pindell@ct.usda.gov

Diane C. Holowaty  
Program Technician, x 111  
Diane.Holowaty@ct.usda.gov

Robert C. Purcell  
Program Technician, x 110

Ronald Clark  
Farm Loan Manager  
860-887-3604 x 105  
Ronald.Clark@ct.usda.gov

### County Committee

Harold Bishop, Chairman  
LAA-2 Representative

Betsy Molodich, Vice-Chairman  
LAA-3 Representative

Charles Tyler, Regular Member  
LAA-1 Representative

## 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

Elections will be held this year for Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA-3) towns of: Putnam, Brooklyn, Plainfield, Killingly, and Sterling.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the Local Administrative Area 3 towns

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A; agreeing to serve if elected. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Nominations are due by August 1, 2011.

## Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

To receive GRP payments you must report your acreage by July 15th. It is required that enrolled fields stay in hay until the contract expiration date.

## Acreage Reports

Acreage reporting is upon us. Producers will be receiving appointment cards in the mail. Reporting acreage is required to be eligible for most programs.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call and make a new one. An appointment will allow us to prepare for your visit. Please bring your **planting dates** for all of your fields and **what you planted**.

We also encourage those who do not already report to do so to establish a growing history and eligibility for USDA programs.

**The deadline for acreage reporting is July 15, 2011.**



## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters in crop years 2009 through Sept. 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to have crop insurance and/or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Conditions that trigger SURE payments are:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance contributes at least 5 percent or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent may receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses.

**The deadline to enroll in the 2009 SURE Program is July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**



## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs through direct and guaranteed loans.

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.

FSA employees will help you complete the application and other forms and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact:

Ronald Clark, Farm Loan Manager  
860-887-3604 Ext. 105  
Ronald.Clark@ct.usda.gov

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

### ❖ Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

### ❖ Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

### ❖ Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

❖ [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506



## NAP Records & Loss Filing

Production records for 2010 crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish and maintain an approved Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. **All 2010 production records must be submitted by the acreage reporting date of July 15, 2011.**

### **Loss Filing:**

Timely filing the CCC-576 Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by NAP and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 non-farm average AGI for commodity and

disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in USDA programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits.

## Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

MILC participants must select a month of commercially marketed milk production for which FSA will begin issuing the operation's payments for each fiscal year.

Dairy operations can change the start-month an unlimited number of times as long as the change is made:

- On or before the 14th day of the month prior to the MILC production start-month (unless that day falls on a weekend, then the date falls to the previous business day);
- Before payment is sought; and
- Before the original selected MILC production start-month has passed.



## Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that key programs available to address impacts from disasters are:

- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to severe weather conditions to visit their local FSA county office.

## See the Many Faces of Agriculture in "The Last Green Valley" at...



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Woodstock Fairgrounds  
Rte 169, Woodstock Connecticut

Free Admission/Free Parking  
Open to the Public/Rain or Shine!

Join us for a Hearty Farm Breakfast  
9:00 - 11:00 AM  
Donation  
Adults - \$5.00  
Children under 10 - \$3.00

- ❖ Agricultural Displays
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Events/Demonstrations
- ❖ Farmers' Market
- ❖ Egg Activities
- ❖ Hay Rides & Farm Tour
- ❖ Forestry Fair & Competition
- ❖ Children's Activities
- ❖ Farm Equipment
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ Horses, Cows, & More!

If you wish to **volunteer or have an exhibit**, please contact the USDA Service Center in Brooklyn at (860) 774-8397, Ext 109 or visit: [www.celebratingagriculture.org](http://www.celebratingagriculture.org)

## Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. A nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers.

Spot check selections are conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

## Renewable Energy for America (REAP) Program



USDA Rural Development's Renewable Energy for America Program provides grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. Approximately \$61 million in loan guarantees and \$42 million in grants will be available nationally. Applications must be submitted by June 15, 2011.

Eligible technology includes: wind, solar, flex fuel pumps, renewable biomass, and geothermal or hydrogen derived from one of these sources. Grants are also available for energy audits, renewable energy development assistance and renewable energy system feasibility studies.

Contact: Mr. Charles Dubuc,  
Connecticut Renewable Energy  
Coordinator, at (413) 253-4336 or  
email: [Charles.Dubuc@ma.usda.gov](mailto:Charles.Dubuc@ma.usda.gov)

## 2011 Windham County Farmers Markets



**Ashford Farmers' Market**  
Sundays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
June 12 - October 2  
Pompey Hollow Park, Across from the  
Town Hall  
[www.ashfordfarmersmarket.com](http://www.ashfordfarmersmarket.com)

**Brooklyn Farmers' Market**  
Wednesdays 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
June 15 - October  
560 - 574 Providence Road, Rte. 6,  
Ocean State Job Lot Parking Lot  
[www.nectfarmersmarket.org](http://www.nectfarmersmarket.org)

**Danielson Farmers' Market**  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
June 11 - October  
Killingly Memorial Library -  
25 Westcott Road

**Hampton Farmers' Market**  
Fridays 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
June 3 - September 30  
436 Hartford Turnpike (Rte. 6),  
Chapels Greenhouse

**Plainfield Farmers' Market**  
Tuesdays 4 p.m - 6 p.m.  
June 28 - October  
732 Norwich Road, Rte.12,  
Doyle's Dollar Store

**Putnam Farmers' Market**  
Mondays & Thursdays 3:30 p.m - 6 p.m.  
June 13 - October  
Riverview Marketplace,  
16 Kennedy Drive

**Putnam Saturday Farmers' Market**  
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
June 18 - October 28  
Riverview Marketplace,  
16 Kennedy Drive

**Scotland Farmers' Market**  
Wednesdays 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
May 25 - October 26  
Scotland Green, Junction of 97 & 14

**Willimantic Farmers' Market**  
Saturdays 8 a.m. - 12 noon  
May 28 - October 29  
Corner of Jackson & Union Streets,  
Under the Pavilion near the Frog Bridge

## GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for field service centers throughout the country.

GIS provides more consistent and more accurate land measurements, for field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

Information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found on-line at: [www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov).

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest.

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 Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

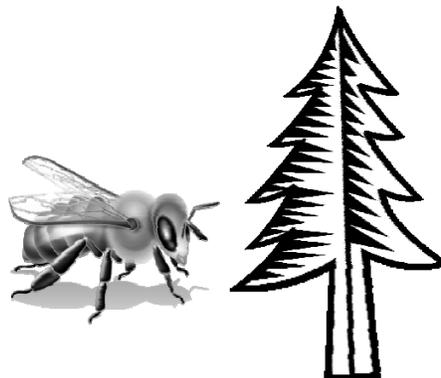
## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office to make any needed arrangements.

## Griswold Research Center Open House

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Griswold, CT will be having an open house Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 10am to 2pm, for all to tour the facility and get a firsthand look at the projects. Speak with scientist about their research, tour the fields, view a live honeybee demonstration, and get answers to your own plant problems. You can learn about vegetable, fruit, and forest pests, invasive species and much more. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Contact Robert Durgy for more information: (860) 376-0365 or [Robert.durgy@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.durgy@ct.gov)



## The Last Green Valley AgInfo Website

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) has created a new website called AgInfo, which is a resource for agricultural business owners in TLGV. It is a one-stop resource for agriculture information on the internet, as well as an opportunity to network with one another. The site contains an events calendar, classified, message board, news section, and various other useful resources for agribusiness producers. It will be constantly updated and any information or feedback can be given on the site. To visit goto:

<http://www.aginfotlgv.org>



### Dates to Remember

June 15	Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) Deadline
June 16	Griswold Research Center Open House 10am – 2pm
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 15	2010 NAP Actual Production History Deadline
July 29	2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program Signup Deadline
August 1	Requests for 2011 Farm Reconstitution
August 1	Nominations for LAA-3 due
Sept. 24	Celebrating Agriculture