



# NEWSLETTER



## Grafton County FSA Office

November 2010

Steven Schmidt  
Grafton County  
Executive Director  
19 Archertown Rd  
Suite 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
603-353-4650 phone  
603-353-4647 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/nh

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

## NH Grafton County Staff

Tara Hamlett,  
Program Technician  
Joanne Fullerton,  
Program Technician

## WE HAVE MOVED!!

The USDA Service Center for Grafton County has moved! Our new location is

19 Archertown Road – Suite 1,  
Orford, NH 03777. We are located in the Orford Ridge Business Park. Our new phone number is 603-353-4650 (ext 2). Our new fax number is 603-353-4647.

PLEASE COME TO OUR  
**OPEN HOUSE!! NOVEMBER 30, 2010**  
**Drop in anytime during the day -**  
**We'll be here 8:00am to 4:30pm. Come check out our new office space!**

## Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops and coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP. Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop. Producers, who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning Farmer or Limited Resource, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement for 2010. The Limited Resource limits are \$142,100 Gross Farm Income, \$26,435 or less Adjusted Gross Income for Grafton County.

## Voting For County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by Midnight, December 6, 2010.

This year the candidate is:

Jacqueline Lewis has been nominated in LAA 2, Grafton County, to serve as a committee member. Jackie Lewis resides at 1135 Court St, Haverhill, NH. She has been a dairy farmer and has produced alfalfa, mixed forage and corn for 40 years. Eligible voters in local administrative area 2 (LAA 2) who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

**1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:  
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

**3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

*Continued on page 2: Voting*



## CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs are subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) and had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received. Please call if you have any questions.

## NAP Deadlines

The deadline for coverage for perennial crops, (blueberries, caneberries, cherries, grapes, pears, plums, and strawberries) is November 20, 2010. The deadline for coverage for Honey and Maple Sap is December 1, 2010.

In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs producers must purchase NAP coverage.

## Conservation Reserve Program

The Continuous Signup for Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous Signup for CRP is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range

from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. If you are interested in learning more about the Continuous Signup for CRP, stop by our office or give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

## Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) For Farmers Program

### USDA Announces Assistance to US Lobster Producers in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Eligible lobster producers in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have until December 23, 2010 to apply for training and benefits.

The TAA for Farmers Program provides technical training and cash benefits to eligible US producers and fishermen of raw agricultural commodities whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities. After reviewing the petitions, FAS determined that increased imports of lobster during January-December 2009 contributed importantly to a greater than 15-percent decline in the value of production in 2009, compared to the average of the three preceding marketing years.

Individual lobster producers in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island interested in applying for technical training and cash benefits must complete and submit a written application to their local Farm Service Agency office by December 23, 2010. Applications (form FSA 299-1) are available on the TAA for Farmers website at: <http://www.taaforfarmers.org/>. TAA for Farmers' Federal Register notices can be found on the FAS website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taa.asp>.

*Continued from page 1:*

### *Voting*

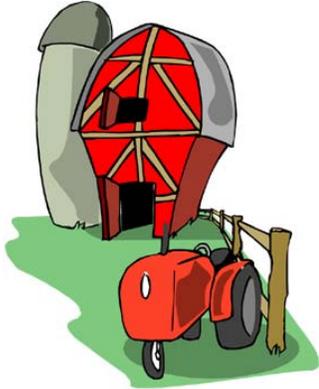
#### **Discrimination Prohibited**

No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land (including forestland) in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



## Farm Storage and Facility Loans

The Farm Storage and Facility Loan Program, which provides low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities, has been expanded to include the following:

- Feed grains, harvested as whole grain or other than whole grain including barley, corn, grain sorghum and wheat
- Cold Storage
- Fruits and vegetables
- Hay
- Oilseeds, including canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, rape seed, safflower, sesame seed, soybeans, and sunflower seeds
- Renewable biomass

To be eligible for FSFL, the borrower must:

- Be a producer of a facility loan commodity
- Demonstrate a need for increased storage capacity
- Show the ability to repay through the financial analysis process
- Meet all other eligibility requirements.

**\*\*Important Note:** If you are interested in a facility loan, you should be looking at the **NAP** deadlines for crop coverage. If you have questions, please call us at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon: Estate Method, Designation of Landowner Method, DCP Cropland Method, and Default Method. If you have any questions about recons, give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2). Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

## Conservation Loans Available to Farmers and Ranchers

The USDA Farm Service Agency reminds farmers and ranchers that the Agency will make and guarantee Conservation Loans (CL) to producers who want to promote conservation on their land as well as conserve the country's natural resources. Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices. Producers can apply for conservation loans to improve or implement conservation practices on their land, as long as the practice is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For more information on the CL program, contact the Farm Loan Team at the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office at 603-223-6003 or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC –OTC)**

Over the next year, FSA/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/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>**

**Note:** FSA/CCC will begin this process in the coming months.

### **What is PCC - OTC?**

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

### **How will my checks be handled?**

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, "Electronically Processed" or "Electronically Presented" and the voided check will be returned to the customer.

If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

### **How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?**

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### **How will this transaction appear on my account statement?**

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

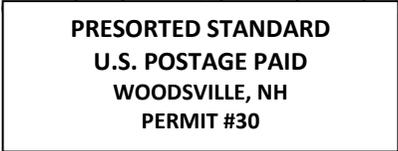
### **What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?**

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Grafton County FSA Office  
19 Archertown Rd – Suite 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



USDA is an equal opportunity provider.



### Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA Office staff directly by phone at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov 20	NAP deadline for perennial crops
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 1	NAP deadline for honey and maple sap
Dec 6	County committee ballots must be returned to FSA office
Dec 23	TAA for Farmers Program deadline