

May 2013



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## Grafton County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from Grafton County FSA Office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Grafton County FSA Office

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### COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. The COC nomination period runs from **June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013**. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and online. Contact the Grafton County office for details.

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### ECP Sign up Announced

Grafton County has been approved to conduct a sign up for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). On March 12, 2013 a flood occurred along the Ammonoosuc and Pemigewasset Rivers damaging cropland in the towns of Littleton, Lisbon, Bath, Haverhill, Campton, Plymouth, Bridgewater and Bristol. **PRODUCERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES FROM THE FLOOD THAT TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 12, 2013 MAY CONTACT THE GRAFTON COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE. THE SIGN UP PERIOD IS MAY 20, 2013 TO JUNE 21, 2013.** A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. The following types of measures may be eligible: debris removal from cropland; grading, shaping, releveling or similar measures; and restoring conservation structures and other installations. Producers suffering damage

may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by FSA. Qualifying damage includes damage that would: be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the cropland to productive use; be unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area; affect the productive capacity of the cropland; impair or endanger the land. For more information, please contact the Grafton County FSA Office at 19 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH 03777 or call us at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

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## DCE/ACRE Sign up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end June 3, 2013.**

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

To find out more about DCP/ACRE contact the Grafton County FSA Office, or call to make an appointment to enroll.

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## CRP Sign-Up Started May 20th

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), **beginning May 20 and ending on June 14, 2013.** CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. For more information on CRP visit the Grafton County FSA office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the **July 15 deadline.** If you have any questions or to report your crops, come see us or give us a call at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

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## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits. Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary. For more information contact the Grafton

County FSA Office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- \*Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years

- \*Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm

- \*Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

- \*Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, and other materials are available from the Grafton County FSA Office. Loan applications and loan information is available from the Farm Loan Team in Concord, NH. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Farm Record Changes

Remember to provide all changes to your farm records to the Grafton County FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the Grafton County FSA Office to update your file.

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## Dates to Remember

May 20, 2013 to June 14, 2013 CRP Sign up

May 20, 2013 to June 21, 2013 ECP Sign up

June 3, 2013 ACRE Sign up Ends

June 7, 2013 SURE Applications accepted for 2011 losses

June 17, 2013 COC Nominations Opens

August 1, 2013 Last Day to File COC Nominations

August 2, 2013 DCP Sign up Ends

### **Crop Reporting Deadlines**

May 31, 2013: Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2013: Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

November 15, 2013: Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Seeded Small Grains

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).