

July 2014



Grafton County, NH FSA Updates

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Grafton County FSA Office

19 Archertown Rd Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777

Phone: 603-353-4650
Fax: 603-353-4647
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

County Executive Director:
Steven Schmidt
steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov

Program Technicians:
Tara Hamlett
tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov

Joanne Fullerton

CED Notes

The FSA Staff here in Grafton County wishes all our farmers and friends a Happy and Safe Fourth of July!!!

Grafton County Announces ECP Sign-up

Grafton County has been approved to conduct a sign-up for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

In the first two weeks of April 2014 rain and rapid snow melt caused damage to cropland in the towns of Haverhill, Piermont and Orford. **PRODUCERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES FROM THE RAIN AND RAPID SNOW MELT THAT TOOK PLACE THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN APRIL, 2014 MAY CONTACT THE GRAFTON COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE. THE SIGN-UP PERIOD IS JUNE 23, 2014 TO JULY 28, 2014.**

joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:

David Clement
Russell Keniston
Shirley Tullar

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.

Next County Committee Meeting:

July 16, 2014 11:00am

NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

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.

Farm Loans:

The Concord Center
10 Ferry St Suite 212 Box 212
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003
Fax: 603-223-6030

For more information, please contact the Grafton County FSA Office at 19 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH 03777, phone: 603-353-4650.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Grafton County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Grafton County:

July 15, 2014: Corn, Fall Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

November 15, 2014: 2015 Perennial Forage, 2014 Fall Forage Seeding, 2014 Fall Seeded Small Grains.

Filing For NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, 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(Notice of Loss) must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop..

2012 & 2013 ELAP Losses Must Be Filed By AUG. 1, 2014 For Honeybee, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish Losses

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity

Program (LIP). Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on Grafton County farms. Grafton County FSA employees care about our customers, and want to remind them to practice farm safety.

Remember to: Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

Dates to Remember

July 4, 2014 - Office Closed - Federal Holiday
July 16, 2014 - COC Meeting 11:00 am
July 28, 2014 - End of ECP Sign-up
August 1, 2014 - End of COC Election Nomination Period
August 1, 2014 - Deadline to file losses under 2012 and 2013 ELAP

Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops
November 15, 2014 - 2015 Perennial Forage, 2014 Fall Forage Seeding, 2014 Fall Seeded Small Grains

Selected Interest Rates for July

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer -1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Joint Financing - 2.50%
Emergency Loans - 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.125%

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).