



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Happy New Year and Welcome 2011!

Merrimack Belknap Hillsborough County FSA Office

The Concord Center
10 Ferry Street
Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

603-223-6003 phone
603-223-6030 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Members

Charles Price, Chair
Martha Crete, Vice-Chair
Keith Bachelder, Member
William Hall Jr., Member
Eric Tenney, Member

County Farm Program Staff

Donna Juneau,
County Executive Director
Susan Sargent,
Program Technician
Melinda Marston,
Program Technician

NH Farm Loan Staff

Sherrill Harris
Farm Loan Manager
Lorna Wakefield,
Farm Loan Officer
Rebecca Davis,
Farm Loan Officer
William Wilson,
Farm Loan Officer
Sandra Carter,
Program Technician
Mary Kim Lavery,
Program Technician

The Purpose of the Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Farm Service Agency (FSA) helps to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business as they face the uncertainties of weather and markets. The FSA delivers commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and emergency assistance programs that help improve the stability and strength of the agricultural economy.

What is the FSA County Committee?

The FSA County Committee is the direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. The three counties of Merrimack, Belknap, and Hillsborough are currently divided into five Local Administrative Areas (LAAs). A County Committee member is elected to represent each one of these five areas.

If you have any questions about your LAA, please contact our office in Concord at 223-6003.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Keith Bachelder of Epsom! Keith was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA-3 which includes the cities/towns of Allenstown, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Epsom, Hooksett, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke, and Pittsfield. Keith was re-elected to his second consecutive term. Larry Moore was elected as an alternate for LAA-3.

Congratulations as well to William (Bill) Hall Jr. of Hollis! Bill was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA-5 which includes the cities/towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, New Ipswich, Pelham, Sharon, Temple and Wilton. Bill was re-elected to his second consecutive term.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 3 are: Keith Bachelder — Elected to the county committee (COC), and Larry Moore — 1st alternate to COC.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 5 are: William (Bill) Hall Jr. — Elected to the county committee (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 on January 26 at 10:00 am to determine who will serve as the county committee chair and vice-chair. The public is always welcome to attend County Committee meetings.

FSA Programs



The New Hampshire FSA is currently implementing over twenty different agricultural assistance programs, including:

- Farm Ownership Loans;
- Farm Operating Loans;
- Emergency Loans;
- Youth Loans;
- Conservation Loans;
- Farm Storage Facility Loans;
- Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans;
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP);
- Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC);
- Dairy Economic Loss Program (DELAP);
- Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Payments Program (DCP);
- Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE);
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP);
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Lobster;
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP);
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE);
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP);
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP);
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP);
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP);
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP); and
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP).

Please do not hesitate to contact our office in Concord at 223-6003 for additional information about FSA programs.

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

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. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. 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.

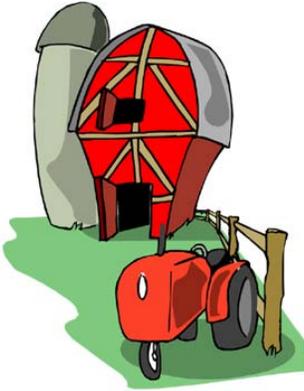
Foreign Buyers Notification

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.

ECP Signup

Farmers in Hillsborough County who suffered losses due to the dry weather in the Summer and Fall of 2010 will be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Drought.



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee, announced that sign-up for emergency drought measures under ECP began on Monday, January 10, 2011 and will continue through Tuesday, February 8, 2011. This program provides cost-share assistance to those Hillsborough County producers who had to supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards as well as for confined livestock operations. The program will also assist with water conservation and enhancement measures that need to be conducted to permit grazing of pasture or forage by livestock.

Some of the authorized measures include:

- Constructing and deepening wells for livestock water;
- Developing springs or seeps;
- Installation of piping to another source of water because the primary source was inadequate; and
- Emergency hauling of water.

For more information on signing up for cost share assistance, you may contact the local FSA office in Concord at 223-6003.

SURE Sign-up for 2009 Crop Losses

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began on Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2009 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county.

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 were 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.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

New Staff at the Farm Service Agency Office

There are two new staff members at the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office. Donna Juneau is our new County Executive Director for Farm Programs; and Mary Kim Lavery is our new Farm Loan Program Technician. Both Donna and Mary Kim look forward to meeting and working with the Counties' agricultural producers and program participants.

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Return Service Requested



**Congratulations to
Kathy Dole!**

On July 2, 2010 Kathy Dole retired from her position as County Executive Director after 30 years of working with the Farm Service Agency. We are grateful for Kathy’s many years of dedicated service to the farm community. We wish her the best in her retirement!

Selected Interest Rates for January 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating – Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership – Direct	4.5%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	2.5 to 3.75%

Thank you Susan Sargent!

The Farm Service Agency’s State Executive Director, Jay Phinizy and all of the County Office Staff wish to express our thanks to Susan Sargent for serving as Acting County Executive Director during the CED transition period in the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County Office.

Dates to Remember	
2/1/2011	LDP Deadline
2/8/2011	ECP Sign-up Deadline
6/1/2011	DGP Sign-up Deadline

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.