



NEWSLETTER



March 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
Eric Evans,
Farm Loan Officer Trainee

Late Winter Edition

Programs Available for Livestock Producers Affected by Winter Weather

It has been a tough winter for many farmers in New Hampshire. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Farm Service Agency (FSA) wants to inform livestock producers that FSA programs may be available to assist them if they experience losses due to heavy snow, ice, and/or extremely cold temperatures.

FSA administers several programs that help producers recover from livestock deaths that are beyond normal mortality rates, losses of purchased and/or harvested forage, and with the additional costs of providing or transporting feed.

Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Producers need to document the number and type of livestock that have died as a direct result of winter weather; and they must timely notify their local FSA office of these losses. For livestock death losses to be eligible under LIP, producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer. For more information contact the FSA County Office at 223-6003.

Limited Resource Program

The purpose of the Limited Resource (LR) program is to ensure that USDA programs are administered in a way that enables small or limited resource farmers to maintain and develop economic viability in farm operations. LR Producers are eligible for additional FSA program benefits. To determine if you are eligible for LR Producer benefits, please use the self determination tool at: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

These are the general guidelines:

Gross Farm Sales Determination: In each of the last two years, was your direct or indirect Gross Farm Sales less than or equal to \$146,400 per year? Gross Farm Sales are defined as: Gross Income entered on IRS Form 1040, Schedule F, in the Farm Income Section. For Fiscal Year 2011 Programs (i.e., October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011), the Gross Farm Sales level should be less than the 2008 and 2009 Farm Sales.

Adjusted Gross Income Determination: In each of the last two years, was your Total Household Income less than the County / Area Value of \$32,510.63 for Merrimack County; \$26,245.00 for Belknap County; or \$34,278.54 for Hillsborough County? Total Household Income is defined as Adjusted Gross Income for all members in your household or the amount you entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section. For Fiscal Year 2011 Programs (i.e., October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011), this should be compared with your Adjusted Gross Income for 2008 and 2009.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

This to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm 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 CCC programs subject to 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. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>

FSA Payment Record

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.



CRP Signup Opens

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective October 1, 2011.

FSA, which administers the CRP program, will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> or contact the FSA County Office at 223-6003

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 or by phone.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

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.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary 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 the county office staff.

New Farm Loan Staff

Eric Evans is the new Farm Loan Officer Trainee on the New Hampshire Farm Loan Team. He has an MBA from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in education from The Ohio State University. Eric was also a combat medic in the Army. In 2005, he served a tour of duty in Iraq with the 11th Cavalry. Eric looks forward to serving the farmers of the great state of New Hampshire.



Important News About Spring Operating Loans

Are you considering financing for your farm this Spring? Are you planning on applying for an operating loan for the 2011 season? If so, the NH FSA strongly recommends that you discuss your needs with the FSA Farm Loan Office in Concord, as soon as possible.

There is a certain amount of urgency and concern, as the demand for loans and loan guarantees across the country is up, and the amount of funds available to lend is down.

If your normal lender is unable to provide the financial assistance needed, the Concord Farm Loan Office would be more than pleased to discuss options with you.

Please call or stop in at the county FSA office nearest your farm or contact the loan office in Concord. The Concord Loan Office number is 603-224-6003.

Please don't wait until late Spring.



Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

The New Hampshire Farm Loan Team can be reached at 603-223-6003.

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 10 Ferry Street
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Remember Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current wintry conditions. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Conservation Loan	4.875%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	2.875-3.875%

Dates to Remember	
April 15	CRP General Signup Ends
June 1	2011 DCP Enrollment Ends
June 15	Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information Due

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