

April 2013



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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough 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.

Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office

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

Phone: 603-223-6003

Fax: 603-223-6030
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Hours

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

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County Committee Members:

Martha Crete, Chair
Eric Tenney, Vice-Chair
William Hall Jr., Member
Robert Potter Jr., Member

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is 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 FSA.

This ensures 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 average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

RMA Apple Program Limited Scope Review

The Risk Management Agency (RMA), Eastern Regional Compliance Office (ERCO), is reviewing a number of insurance policies issued for fresh apple crops in multiple counties across New Hampshire, and several other states, for the 2013 crop year. The purpose of the review is to ensure Approved Insurance Providers (AIP) are verifying fresh apple production history as a prerequisite for establishing fresh apple insurability in 2013.

Jane Presby, Member

NH Farm Loan Officers:

Lorna Wakefield
Rebecca Davis
William Wilson

**NH Farm Loan Program
Technician:**

Sandra Carter

The RMA's 2013 apple crop provisions require insured to report and designate all acreage by type, and further stipulates: "if you designate fresh apple acreage on the acreage report, you are certifying at least 50 percent of the production from acreage reported as fresh apple acreage, by unit, was sold as fresh apples in one or more of the four most recent crop years in accordance with the definition of "fresh apple production" and that you have the records to support such production." The apple provisions also state "acreage with production not meeting all the requirements above must be designated on the acreage report as processing apple production." Information specific to record acceptability can be found in the 2013 Apple Crop Provisions and the 2013 Crop Insurance Handbook, Sections 14 and 16.

The ERCO will determine whether insureds are meeting the fresh apple production record requirements in a manner sufficient to support continued fresh apple production coverage in 2013. AIP'S will identify to the ERCO all cases where supporting fresh apple production records were not adequate and resulted in adjustments to coverage prior to any claims being paid.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local 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 FSA county office by June 1.

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continue

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.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

MILC Program Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill.

The production start month previously selected by an operation is applicable for FY 2013. Starting March 1, 2013, all production start month changes must be made according to normal start month selection provisions.

Normal start month provisions: Changes must be made on or before the 14th day of the month before the selected MILC production start month, except as otherwise provided during the applicable sign-up phase. A dairy operation cannot select a MILC production start month for any month that has already begun, except as otherwise provided; has already ended or; milk was not produced by the dairy operation.

Please call the FSA office and make an appointment if you decide to make changes.

Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact Farm Loan Staff at 223-6003.

Read how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

[Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#)
[Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (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. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by May 1, 2013.

USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before May 1, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be

emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2013:

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) — Direct 1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
Emergency Loans -- 2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans -- (7 years) 1.375%

Dates to Remember:

April 17 - County Committee Meeting; Public is Welcome
May 1 - Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Deadline
May 20 - June 14 – CRP General Sign Up
May 27 – Memorial Day Holiday
July 4 – Independence Day Holiday
July 15- Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).
